

THE
Secretary in Fashion:
OR,

A Compendious and Refined
way of Expression in all manner of
LETTERS.

COMPOSED IN FRENCH

By P. S^r de la SERRE,
Historiographer of FRANCE.

And Translated into English, by
JOHN MASSINGER, Gent.



LONDON.
Printed by J. B. and S. B. for
^aGodfrey Emerson, and are to be sold at
his Shop in Little Britain.

1640.

$$\frac{3}{4} \frac{1}{2} \frac{2}{3} \quad \frac{3}{5} \sqrt{\frac{7}{5}} \sqrt{\frac{72}{48}} \sqrt{\frac{24}{33}}$$

$$\frac{2}{3} \sqrt{\frac{17}{5}} \sqrt{\frac{16}{24}} \quad \frac{2}{3} \sqrt{\frac{21}{15}} \sqrt{\frac{6}{4}}$$

$$\frac{2}{6} \sqrt{\frac{3}{4}} \sqrt{\frac{25}{14}} \sqrt{\frac{4}{1}} \sqrt{\frac{34}{7}}$$

$$\frac{3}{4} \frac{1}{2} \frac{2}{3} \sqrt{\frac{2}{6}} \sqrt{\frac{25}{104}}$$

$$\frac{3}{4} \frac{2}{6} \sqrt{\frac{8}{4}} \sqrt{\frac{19}{8}} \sqrt{\frac{22}{3}}$$

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TO THE WORTHILY

Admired for Learning and Good
Parts, Mr. *Tho: Berney*, Gent. of
Grays-Inn.

SIR,



Thought my
endeavours too
poorly employ-
ed, while they
were restrain'd
to the limits of
a particular acknowledgement;
w^{ch} forced me to comply with
my ambitious humour, by mak-
ing this publick profession of my
duty & observance. I may seem
both Ignorant and Indiscreet to
A 3 promise.

The Epistle Dedicatory.

promise any new thing in this fardell of Epistles to you, vvhho are able to give lessons of Courtship and Civility to the most refined Spirits of this age, yet I deserve pardon, if you consider that nothing is here but vvhhat might either have bin written by you, or to you, and consequently deserves the approbation of the most malicious. For in the one your own Humanity, and in the other the Judgement of all the world is interessed: as is in all things that concerne your Particular, the repose,

S I R,

of

Your most humble and most obedient servant J. M.



T O M Y L O R D, T H E

Abbot of Dorak, one of his Maje-
sties Privie Counsellors, and Trea-
surer of the Holy Chappell
at Paris.

My Lord,

THe Particular esteeme I
have of your Merit, obli-
ged me to these Publick
Proofes; being Ambitious
the world should know, that though
my inclinations be not strong enough
to follow vertue, yet I never cease to
build her Altars, in al places where
I find her Image. To maintain (my
Lord) that you are one of the most
lively, the Eloquence of your actions
surpassing that of my Discourse, has
already

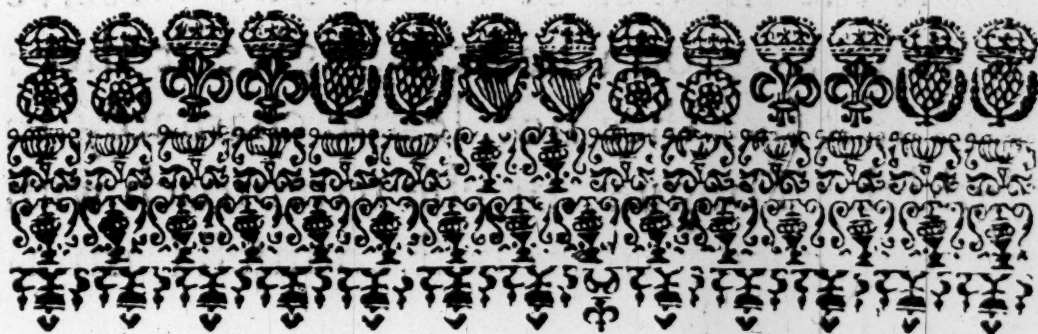
The Epistle Dedicatory.

already perswaded it to al the world,
so that your Honesty having made
it self known every where, I satisfie
my selfe in praising you worthily, to
declare your name, being one of the
most accomplished Prelates of this
Age. I speake not of those negotia-
tions of Importance which you have
finished, to the Honour of the King,
and Satisfaction of his Emminence
who knew right well that the grea-
test Employments were under the
reach of your Capacity. I wish with
Passion, I had any in your service,
wherby I might force you to beleieve
that I am extreamly

My Lord,

Your most humble, and most
faithfull servant,

P. de La. Serre.



The Author to the Reader.

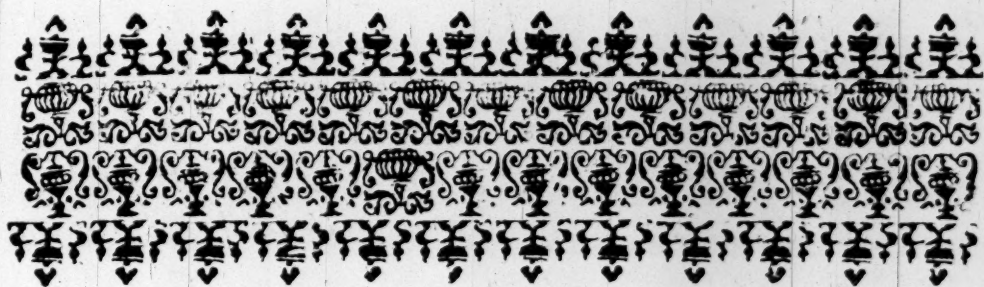


Having had notice given mee,
that my *Secretary of the Court*,
which I composed for a Di-
vertisement in my Youth, ran
through the World in my Name, and with
some kind of Approbation in strange Coun-
tries : as being 30 times Printed, since it was
first published, and never falling into my
hands to be corrected : I thought good to
present thee with this new one, which is
a Digested worke, and where thou shalt
receiue more satisfaction, as finding a lesse
number of faults. It beares the Name of
Secretary in Fashion, to the end that it may
be alwayes in season, considering how va-
a riable

The Author, &c.

riable the manner of Writing is. Receive it with as good a heart as I give it thee: and if it like thee not, learne charitably to hold thy Tongue, or else to reproach with a good grace; tis the best counsell I am able to give thee.

Reader.



Reader,



Here present thee with a Cornucopia of knowledge and Expression. If thou dost not receive it with an acknowledgement proportioned to the Worth of such a Gift, mayst thou acquire two Cornucopia's of Ignominy, to Adorne thy forehead, and bee condemned to the Reading of the English Secretary, as long as thou livest. If the whole Mountaine of the Common-wealth (whereof thy selfe art a molehill,) were as sensible as thou oughtest to be, I assure my selfe, shee would bow her venerable knees, and doe mee Homage for that mighty Portion of Wit, and Courtshippe, whereof shee goes now to take Possession. But I see thee already blaar-eyed with reading Monsieur Balzac, and the Packet of Letters; forgive mee good Reader, I aske thee most humbly Mercy, and with much Resentment call backe my former Imprecation, since I perceive thee already exposed to a more rigorous Pennance, than

The Translator

that which my Charity would have suffered my Justice to impose upon thee : For what mischief could I have imagined (though I had beene informed with the Soule of Phalaris his inginer) equall to the Malice of this which thou hast already incurred ? in the one thou learnest nothing but to speake Baudy with a good Grace, in the other nothing but to blow a horne ; Here thou suckest in the Principles of Atheisme, there of Ignorance ; Here thou art instructed to Preach in an Epistle, there to Court thy Friend in a Sermon : This stuffs thy Memory with Stolne French, that with English not worth the Stealing : The one Commands thee to Violate the Laws of all Ancient Rhetorique, the other to observe none. The one will give thee Rules how to speak Balzaac, (or) badly, the other like a Post (id est) nothing at all.

The Consideration of this (Loving, Kind, Courteous Reader) did much precipitate my Vindication of the Times from Error ; or (as the Pure Hees and Shees of this Age say,) did even force my Spirit to reclaime the Idolatrous from adoring that Malicious Idoll the English Secretary, that Image which Nebuchadnezzar the King had set up, the Post with a Packet of Letters, and that most abominable Baal, Balzaac : by divulging this Peece of Excellent Workmanship, (which the Gods themselves did hammer and frame in the Head of Monsieur La Serre ;) by letting this Bird of Paradise fly

to the Reader.

fly out of her Cage, that she might recreate Mortality with the Charms of her Voyce, and resuscitate the Intombed Spirits of Men, from that Leaden sleep which the former Tarantulaes had throwne them into. Or as with most reason I may averre, by Publishing this new Ephemerides to the World, which shall teach thee to know the Conjunctions of the Planets, or erring Stars; I meane the Connection of wandering words and sentences, used, and abused by Men of all sorts ad Libitum. It will teach thee the rising and setting of the Sun, or Elevation and depression of Periods; The Ecclipses in writing, as to distinguish amongst sounds, and to know when one obscures another, or at least renders it lesse agreeable. But if thou beest not yet Contented with this moderate touch of knowledge, it shall proceed farther, and open to thee a fluse of all other sublunary Sciences whatsoever. Where canst thou have better Philosophy than here, where it teacheth thee how the rude Matter of an Epistle is to be informed with the spritefull Vivacity of Phrases, and Apt Coherence of Periods? Where wilt thou prove an Arithmetitian, if not here, where thou art taught, that if thou add, or subtract but one word from the whole Number of an Epistle, thy Computation will prove false, and it utterly lose the Grace and Sweetnesse due unto it? If thou wouldst be instructed in the Tacticks, where wilt thou learne a more exact way of ordering Men and disposing a Battl

a 3 than

The Translator

than here, where one displaced, puts all the rest out of order ? Humanity cannot invent a more compendious way of Short writing, since Stenography has here arrived to such Perfection, that when a Man has but writ his Name, hee has both Courted his Mistresse, Comforted the Sick, Defied an Enemy, and Obliged a Friend. Logick I am sure, is here in her Auge, since our Syllogismes are so powerfull, that except a Man would confesse himselfe rude, and unreasonable, (and consequently no Man) he can never deny the Argument. What Rhetorick is more pleasing than this, where servants and Admirers are acquired in every page ? What Musick more Harmonious than where we are so vigorous in teaching the true art of stopps, that when one only is escaped, the whole Aire is nothing but a Discord ? I must confesse, our Grammar is an Antipode to Lilly (though Infinitely more Compleat,) for wee doe not decline words, but only Obsolescences, and Barbarismes : nor have wee more than two Conjugations, viz. to doe you service, and to revenge my selfe ; by which we Conjugate all our other Verbs and Nouns be they what they will.

Behold Reader, beyond thy Expectation, another Ars magna et Ultima, besides the Lullian ; another Panace or Curer of all Diseases beside the Gracian ; and another Castle of Knowledge beside Records Sphere ; which if thou accept with a willing mind, and good
In-

to the Reader.

*Intention, I desire thee; but if thou attempt
upon it with unwashed hands, or a Prejudi-
cated Opinion, I desire thee; and so fare thee
well.*

Thy Servant,

J. M.

THE



THE FIRST
LETTERS
OF
COMPLEMENT.

SIR,



Take such delight in rendring
you my service, that I remaine
alwayes the first satisfied
though I acquit my selfe And
that which makes mee so care-
full in seeking Occasions, is,
that you should not reproach me to have o-
mitted any. Yet in this Sir I doe not implore
your beleife, desiring so to let you see by Ef-
fects, rather then Words, that I am without
Complement,

Sir

Your most humble servant.

A

Another

Another upon the same Subject.

S I R,

I Desie you to accuse me of neglect in the performance of my Duty, the passion which I have to your Service being so violent, that it nourisheth in mee a continuall Care of seeking Opportunities to make it knowne. To the furtherance of which, this Letter offerd it selfe most happily, having charge to assure you from my part, that of all the servants which your Merits have acquired you, I am

Sir

The most humble and most faithfull.

S I R,

I Am by so many obligations Yours, that the onely want of Occasions to give Testimony of it, breeds all my Discontents. Esteeming my selfe unfortunate in nothing so much, as that the Passion which carries me to your Service, prooves as unprofitable as extreame. Which forceth me to have recourse to Intreaties, beseeching you to honour me with your Commands, that (other meanes failing) my obedience may oblige you to believe that I am

Sir

Your most humble servant.

Another

Another upon the same.

SIR,

I Must discharge my heart in telling you that I honour you more then all the rest of the World. Tis true your desert imposed the necessity upon me, but it did not give me the inclination: though I beseech you to beleieve that I was very willing in the constraint, having suffer'd no other violence, then what my Reason and Iudgement offer'd mee. You shall have daily new proofes by the Continuation of my Duty, and by the Quality which I beare

Sir

of

Your most humble servant.

Another upon the same subiect.

SIR,

IF you expect nothing but Complements from me, you shall never receive any, I am a Sworne enemy of Courtship and Civility towards persons whom I honour extreamely, as I doe you. It sufficing mee that I performe my Duty in their behalfe, and that I take care to do it with a good Grace. This is the Study in
A 2 which

which I practice my selfe, and I beseech you thinke that I will not loose the least occasion to witnesse it to you, because I finde my selfe much interested in the Resolution which I have taken, to be all my life

Sir

Your most humble servant.

Another upon the same.

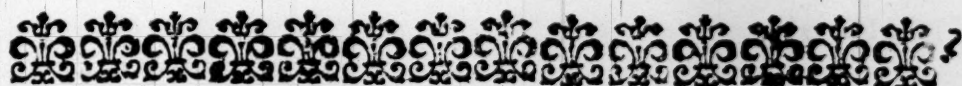
SIR,

THough I have told you a thousand times by word of Mouth that I am your Servant, yet my Pen shall once againe assure you of the same, expecting till you oblige me, to more Eminent proofes; which I conjure you do to, & (if you be pleased) to prevent the occasion by some Command, that may satisfie my Impatience, to make you know and confesse at the same time, that you may have more powerfull, and more considerable Servants, but never

Sir

A more humble, or more faithfull.

Answers



Answers to the Letters of Complement.

SIR,



Never made doubt of your Civility and Courtesie, but of my owne good fortune, in meeting with the meanes to requite them. Yet I intreat you to believe, that hereafter I will imploy all my cares to witnesse unto you my good affection, and if Ill meanes render them unprofitable, I will dye for my owne satisfaction,

Sir

Your very humble Servant.

Another Answer.

SIR,

I Esteeme to much the Honour of your Remembrance, not to desire the continuation, and withall to beseech you for some Employment, wherein I may witnesse the Passion which I have to your service. For which I will importune you hereafter, desiring by deeds

A 3

rather

rather than words to let you see, that I am extremely,

Sir

Your most affectionate servant.

Another Answer.

SIR,

THough this in some sort requite the favour of your remembrance, yet I cannot cease to be indebted to you, when I consider, that your courtesie prevented my respects; But I beseech you imagine, that for the Time to come, I will bee so carefull to disengage my selfe, that you shall have greater cause to complaine of my importunity, then my silence : which I have resolved never to keepe, when your Interests oblige me to the contrary, as making Publike Profession to appeare in all places

Sir

Your most humble servant.

Another Answer.

SIR,

I Will be so presumptuous (since you desire it) as to beleieve you love me; but upon condition

dition, that you will likewise acknowledge the Passion, which I have to serve you. For as it onely makes mee merit the honour of your Friendship, so I shall be very glad, that you would everlastingly conserve the Remembrance of it. Continue then in loving mee as much as you please, and likewise esteeme infallibly that I am, more then all the world besides,

Sir

Your most humble Servant.

Another Answer.

SIR,

THough I give you very humble thanks for the Honour of your Remembrance, yet I shall alwayes remaine Indebted to you, as making more account of the least of your favours, then all the respects I am able to render you. Continue onely in obliging mee of that fashion (though I be intirely yours already) and beleve (if you please) that I shall never bee capable of other resentment, then which shall witnesse the quality that I beare

Sir

of

Your most humble servant.

Another

*Another Answer.**SIR,*

I Am not so unfortunate as I thought I was, since I hold some place still in your Memory. Yet the Griefe which I have, not to deserve this honour, has reduced my thoughts, to such a Moderation, that I am in doubt whether I should complaine or rejoyce. It remains in you onely to allay the discontent of my Minde, by giving mee some Employment in your service, which may witnesse the Passion I have to maintaine the Quality

*Sir**of**Your very humble Servant.**Letters to complaine of a Long Silence.**SIR,*

The Friendship and Service which heretofore I vowed you, force me at this present, to demand the Reason of your Silence. I doe not doubt but you

alledge a sufficient excuse to authorize it, yet I beseech you thinke, that how lawfull soever it bee, I shall never leave off Complaining: you may pretend the want of Occasions, or the sudden Accident of some Sicknesse, (which never molested you except in thought) whereby to Iustifie your selfe against my Reproaches. But all this is not able to satisfie mee, confesse your fault; aske forgivenesse, and you goe a nearer way to work, that's the onely way to conserve eternally,

Sir

Your very humble servant.

Another upon the same.

SIR,

I Shall breake with you at last, if you breake not silence, imagining that you love me but a little, since you have forgot me altogether. I beseech you deale more familiarly with me, if my friendship be any way considerable, or you esteeme mee worthy of yours. In the Humour I am now, I thinke you can no sooner blot me out of your Memory, then I can raze you out of my heart, without retaining any thing (by my good will) but the Quality only,

Sir

of Your most humble servant.

B

Another

Another Answer.

SIR,

IF you have taken an oath to write no more to me, at least send mee the letters backe againe which I addrested to you, that I may still have the honour to receive something from your part. Silence is a sworne enemy of Friendship, which is the reason that mine reproaches you at this present, being not able to indure, that after so many protestations never to forget me, you should loose even the Memory of having made them. You may change your Humour when you please, if you desire to renew the obligations

Sir

of

*Your most humble Servant.**Another.*

SIR,

IF I did not honour you extreamely, I could easily revenge my selfe of your forgetfulness, by my silence; but the esteeme which I make of your deserts, together with an inclination which carries me to your service, oblige me

me to assure you still, that though you should forget me, even to my name, I would never change the Resolution which I have taken, to be all my life

Sir

Your most humble servant, M.

Another.

SIR,

I Can endure no longer that you should forget a Person who honours you so extreamly as I doe. These three Months of your silence I have kept my minde in the continuall fetters of grief, that I should loose the honour of your Remembrance; I beseech you doe me justice, and let not all the World complaine with me, of the little esteeme you make

Sir

of

Your most humble Servant.

Another.

SIR,

DOe if you please, write no more to mee, your merit constraines mee to use you in another fashion. I can never weary

my selfe, in executing your Commands, and lesse in acquitting my selfe when Occasions are offer'd, yet I doe not desire that you should esteeme your selfe obliged to mee, for I satisfie my selfe alwayes the first, following my inclination after I have honoured your vertue, because equally both the one and the other force me to carry, to my Grave, the Quality

Sir
of *Your most humble Servant.*



Answers to the Letter Complaining of Silence.

SIR,



Ou oblige mee with such a good Grace, in Complaining of mee, that I am constrained to give you thanks instead of reproaches. 'Tis not because I want lawfull excuses to authorize my Silence. But the Interest which you take in it, makes mee to condemne it, assuring you, that hereafter you shall accuse me of Importunity rather then neglect. 'Tis the Protestation

Sir
of
Your most humble servant.

Another

Another Answer.

SIR,

IT is not needfull to excuse my silence, since I still indure the Paine of it; by reason of a Sicknesse, which molests me continually. But though your Reproaches proceed from your Affection, yet I assure you they Interesse mine extreamely, being you doubt of the continuance of it. I beseech you thinke, that I am not of an humour to forget those whom I honour as I doe you, and that except I bee againe reduced to the extremity I was in before, I shall alwayes acquit my selfe of that which I owe you, In Quality

Sir

of

Your most humble servant.

Another Answer.

SIR,

IF our reciprocall friendship could not bee
conserved but by letters, my hand should
bee alwayes upon the Paper, to give you
B 5 conti-

continually some new assurance or other; But knowing that she subsists of herselfe, through her own solidity, I contemne all the Paintings of Civility and Complement. How little knowledge soever you have of your owne Desert, or my Humour, you may easily know without being a Prophet the deare esteeme I make of you, and being knowledge has truth for her object, you are forced to beleieve that I am really

Sir *Your most humble servant.*

Another Answer.

SIR,

YOur Complaints and Reproaches, are too agreeable to me, that I am forced to give you thanks, knowing they proceed from an excesse of affection, and zeale. 'Tis true I have beene silent too long, but I pray you beleieve, that the Misfortune which Imposed it upon me, hath given mee such a Penance, that I deserve Pardon, though it were the most enormous crime of the World. I will not now make a particular recitall of all the Accidents which have befallen me, for feare you should Iudge me as Importune in that, as in the other you esteem'd mee negligent : It
sufficeth

sufficeth me to put you in minde, that I am al-
wayes, what I alwayes was,

Sir

Your most humble Servant.

Another Answer.

SIR,

YOU are too Iust to Condemne mee
without hearing me speake. Tis true I
have beene somewhat too long in ac-
quitting, by the ordinary Commerce of Let-
ters the debt which I owe you, but the Mis-
chance of the Prison where I am still, can tell
you, that though my hands bee free, yet their
liberty is altogether unprofitable to serve them
in that which you desire. Content your selfe
then (if you please) with the services I am able
to render you, that is, in good will and thought:
without accounting this for one, since tis both
by hazard & an excesse of good Fortune, that
I acquit my selfe of it. And beleve assuredly,
that into what extremity of adverse fortune
soever I am reduced, I will alwayes conserve
the passion I have to your Service, as being
without Fiction

Sir

Your most humble servant.

Another

*Another Answer.**SIR,*

I Would I were left handed, that I might acquit my selfe, of the Service I owe you, being unfortunately lame of the right hand: which has obliged me to make use of a strange Penne, to excuse my silence, and to assure you, that though I serve my selfe of another mans endeavour in writing this Letter, yet 'tis my soule that conceived it, and my heart that gave the Dictamen, being very glad to witnesse unto you the Truth of my thoughts, touching the Resolution which I have taken to make my selfe remarqued in all places

*Sir**Your most humble servant.* *Letters*



Letters of Thanksgiving.

SIR,



Ince it is your pleasure to adde dayly to the obligations of those who are most intirely yours ; I am resolved to let you take your course, and busy my thoughts onely in seeking occasions to revenge my selfe. And if my misfortune in this Pursuit continually render my cares unprofitable, yet for your satisfaction I shall alwayes have a good Will, and Passion to doe you Service, which I shall heartily offer you up being

Sir

Your most humble servant.

Another upon the same.

SIR,

I Doe not intend that these thanks which I give you for the favour wherewith you were pleased to honour me, should passe in
C your

your opinion for an Acknowledgement : I revenge my selfe onely of your Civility, expecting to meet with an occasion, wherein I may witnesse with Services rather then Words, that I am unfainedly in heart, and soule

Sir

Your very humble servant.

Another upon the same.

S I R,

I Confesse you have obliged mee with a very good Grace, and so perfectly, that I shall remaine indebted to you all my life. I would to God some Occasion would offer it selfe, which I might imploy in your Service, thereby to witnesse, that as your favours have beene extreame, I will attempt all extreamities to revenge my selfe. These are no discourses of Complement, my heart dictates to my Penne, all that my Penne writes to you, with assurance that I will not long unprofitably beare the Quality

Sir

of

Your very humble servant.

Another

Another.

S I R,

I Know not in what Tearmes, to give you Thanks, for the Favours which your Generous disposition has beene pleased to bestow upon mee. I am so unfortunate an Orator, that I am out of all hope to acquit my selfe, that way. It sufficeth me, to put you in minde of the Passion which I have to your Service, perswading my selfe, that the remembrance it will excitate in you shall supplicate for the default of my Capacity, and that Considering the Ardor of my Zeale, rather then the beauty of my Discourse, you will content your selfe with my Disability, and that I assure you once againe, how perfectly I am,

Sir

*Your very humble servant.**Another upon the same.*

S I R,

IF I had beene more happy or more powerfull, I had already requited your favours instead of giving you thanks; but being unfortunate as I am, and in such a degree of

Impotency, I have nothing left but words, to send you, as an acknowledgement of your Deeds. Tis true, they are words most infallibly true, assuring you from my heart rather then my mouth, that I will carry to my Grave, the Quality

Sir

of

Your most humble servant.

Another.

SIR,

IF you expect Thanks worthy your favours, you shall never receive any of me. I am farre more fit to publish them, then requite them in the least respect, if the good desire I have to disingage my selfe, doe not passe for satisfaction: which is all that I can offer you in the state I finde my selfe at this present, beseeching you to beleave, that if I were not oppressed with an extreame Misfortune, my Care and Paines should soone witnesse the Occasion which is offered me, to give Testimony how much I am

Sir

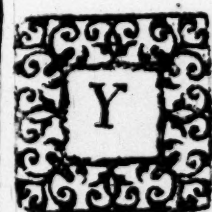
Your most humble servant, M.

Answers



Answers to the Letters of Thanksgiving.

SIR,



Our thanks have bought my service at so deare a rate, that the satisfaction which before I received is utterly now taken from me. Keep your omplements then for some other, and remember to use more familiarly,

Sir

The most humble of all your servants.

Another Answer.

SIR,

There is farre more Honour, then Content in serving you, since by such ready acknowledgements, you hasten the satisfaction. The excesse of your Noblenesse, undoes me, not being able to endure thanks for the performance of my duty, and therefore since my indeavours in your behalfe can bee stiled no other, I beseech you to vary
your

your Tearmes, and to Consider me alwayes in
the Quality I am

Sir

of

Your most humble servant,

Another Answer.

SIR,

I Complaine much of the Excesse of your
Civility and Courtship, since our Recipro-
call friendship is therein greatly Interessed.
you give me Thanks for the service which you
desired of mee, as though I were not obliged
to it of Necessity. Leave off that ill Custome
if you Please, and know that the Language of
Complements is unknowne to true friends,
whereof I am one, and which is more,

Sir

Your most humble Servant.

Another

Another Answer.

S I R,

YOur Complements have put me into a very ill humour; I cannot write to you, but in Choller, since you use mee as a stranger, like as appears by the superfluity of your Ceremonies and unprofitable Thanks. It seemes you have wholly forgot the absolute power that your Merit has obtain'd over me, which causes mee once againe to put you in minde, that you will be sooner weary in Commanding, then I in executing, as being unreservedly,

Sir

*Your most humble servant.**Another Answer.*

S I R,

I Send you backe your Thanks, to the End that you may make use of them, when you entertaine some person lesse endeared to your service then I am. One would thinke by reading your complements, that you Cog with me to gaine my Friendship. I pray Remember Sir, that I have wholly dedicated it to your desert,

desert, and therefore, you are obliged hereafter to treat mee with lesse Civility, and more freedome, if you account mee into the number of your Servants, I being,

Sir

One of your most humble, and most faithfull

Another Answer.

SIR,

YOur thanks have made mee resolve to doe that piece of Service over againe, Imagining that something was omitted, since you goe about to put mee in minde of it, by your unnecessary Acknowledgment. Sir you know that kinde of affectation is alwayes ill received in the familiar Commerce, of a true friendship, which I shall alwayes professe in your behalfe, and likewise that I am,

Sir

Your most humble Servant.

Letters

*Letters of Intreaty.**SIR,*

He Report of your generous Disposition gives me the boldnesse, to implore your favour in the dispatch of a businesse, whose successe depends absolutely on your Authority. Tis true I have not the Honour to bee knowne by you, but that being a particular Mi fortune of Mine, I desire it may not serve as a pretence to the Refusall of my Demand : Assuring you, that I shall indeavour to make knowne by reall service, rather then name,

*Sir**Your most humble Servant, M.**Another upon the same.**SIR,*

I Could wish your Command had prevented my Intreaties, that my observance might have merited of you the dispatch
D of

of a businesse which presents it selfe. But being the occasion to Importune you, was offer'd, when I sought one to doe you service, I will force my selfe to beleieve that my good will may oblige you, not to refuse this courtesie

Sir

to

Your most humble servant.

Another upon the same.

SIR,

MY vowed Service and Friendship, give mee the freedome to Implore your favour, in behalfe of the Bearer of these Presents. I serve my selfe very boldly of the Power you have given me to imploy your Indeavors in all sorts of encounters, but upon Condition that you will doe the same in all occasions that may offer themselves, wherein I may witnesse how much I am,

Sir

Your most humble servant. M.

Another

Another.

S I R,

IF you make as great Account of my Intreaty, as I doe of your commands, you will easily accord unto me this, which is, to sustaine with your Authority, a businesse of Mine now in agitation, that it may bee determined to my advantage. I doe not doubt of your Power, and lesse of your Noblenesse, which forces me to beleieve that you will comply with this Occasion offerd you, to oblige extreamely,

*Sir**Your most humble servant. M.**Another.*

S I R,

IF you complaine of my Importunity, accuse your owne freeness, for if you had beene lesse Generous, I had bin lesse bold. But being I know by Experience in what a high degree Civility & Courtesie predominate in you, I am constrain'd to think, that my intreaty will not be unacceptable, which is, that you would

bee pleased to mollifie with your Eloquence, that harsh conceipt that Master N. has of mee. In this incounter you will oblige us both together, since giving him to understand my Innocence, hee will easily give place to reason. This favour in particular I hope from your Goodnesse, as you on the contrary may expect all sorts of Service from my Duty : In Quality

Sir

of

Your most humble servant. M

Another.

SIR,

THough I bee the most unprofitable of all your friends, yet I shall never faile to prove my selfe one of the most passionate to your Service. The violence whereof causes me at this Present, to intreate you to oblige me in such, or such an Encounter. All that I can say to you for the first acknowledgement is, that I shall conserve Eternally the Memory of this favour, and if I be not able to meet with an Occasion to revenge my selfe, that

that I shall carry the Sorrow of it into my
Grave, together with the Quality

Sir

of

Your most humble servant. M.



Answers to the Letters of Intreaty.

SIR,



Have done all that you desired
of me, but with so much satis-
faction, and so little Paines,
that I beseech you prepare
some new commands, where-
by the passion I have to serve
you, may not be left unprofitable, and you
shall see by my observance, that I have no
greater Pleasure in the World, then to make
my selfe remarqued in all places,

Sir

Your most humble servant.

D 3

Another

Another Answer.

S I R,

I Have many thanks to returne you for the happy employment you gave mee in your service; I thinke all things fell out according to your desire, which gave mee ample occasion to rejoyce, as participating in all things that concerne your particular. I beseech you doe me the favour, that I may never have occasion to doubt of it, since I professe my selfe as much as any man in the World,

*Sir**Your most humble servant. M.**Another Answer.*

S I R,

I Could wish you had every day occasion to command my service, that I might continually have the Good fortune to produce new proofes of my obedience. I performed happily the last Commands wherewith you were pleased to honour mee, which gives me cause to believe that you will not long let me rest unprofitable, without giving me some other sort of employment, wherein I may finde
more

more satisfaction, as proving it more painefull. This I beseech you to doe, in quality

Sir

cf

Your most humble Servant, M.

Another Answer.

SIR,

I Finde so much facility in the execution of the Command, which you imposed upon mee, that I am ashamed to reckon it in the number of services which I desire to render you : It being an Encounter of so little Importance, for my satisfaction and your Interest, that I beseech you give me some other Imployment, wherein I may witnesse according to your Merit and my Affection how unfainedly I am

Sir

Your most humble Servant. M.

Another

*Another Answer.**S I R,*

I Aske you pardon for the long time that I have spent in the executing your Commands, not that I have beene negligent in employing my Cares, and Diligence, but because the successe consisting in a Strangers power, I could no sooner give you the Effects: yet let not the mishap of this delay, hinder you hereafter in using my Endeavours, since I am without reserve

*Sir**Your most humble servant.**Another Answer.**S I R,*

WHen you desire any service of me, I beseech you consider whether it be in my power or no, to the end that being unable to execute your Commands (as I am at this Present) I incurre not the hazard of your reproach. You may Expect new prooffe (when you please) of the Passion which I have to serve you, since I no way desire to beare in vaine the Quality

*Sir**of Your most humble Servant. M.**Other*



*Other Answers of Excuse to the
Letters of Intreaty.*

SIR,



Am more sorry then your selfe,
that I am not able to effect
your Commands : The duty
which you expect, does not
absolutely depend of mee, so
that to render it worthily, I am
to implore the favour of an other Man, who
professeth to incline totally to the adverse par-
ty. Doe not thinke that I make these excuses
to avoid the occasion, which presented it selfe
for your service, but beleeve I beseech you,
that in all other Encounters, I will Comport
my selfe with so much passion, that you shall
be forced to confesse I am unfaignedly,

Sir

Your most humble servant, M.

E

Another

Another Answer.

SIR,

IF you knew in what disorder my Misfortune causes me to write, (since I am not able to satisfy your desire) you would have pity on my Affliction, being it wholly proceeds from my Griefe, that the Power to doe you service is taken from mee. I speake this from my heart, and soule, and being the friendship I promised you taught mee the Language, I will constrain my selfe to beleieve, that it is Eloquent enough to perswade you, that the only want of ability, deprives mee at this Present, of the Honour and Contentment, to witness unto you how much I am

Sir

*Your most humble servant. M.**Congratu-*



*Congratulatory Letters to a friend, of some
Good Fortune happened to Him.*

SIR,



IF you knew how excessively joyfull I was at the Newes of your good fortune, you would make a doubt whether your owne resentment might be equalled to mine or no: truly Sir there could nothing be added to it, and besides it proceeds wholly from the friendship that long agoe I vowed to your good nature, which is not vulgar, since it has your desert for the Object. I could say more if the Excesse of my Gladnesse would give me the freedome, wherefore for the Present I must suffice my selfe, that you remaine assured, how the Contentment which I take can be equalled by nothing but the passion which I have to your service, as being

Sir

Your very humble servant.

*Another.**SIR,*

THe newes of your Promotion into that Charg, which you wish'd for so long, have added such Contentment and Satisfaction to my thoughts, that I am able to expresse but one part of the Ioy which raignes in me. I trouble not my selfe, to perswade you to it by a long discourse; your owne merit and our reciprocal Friendship, (supplying the defect of my Eloquence) will give a farre better Testimony then my pen is able, which has in charge at this present onely to put you in minde, that I am alwayes according to my wont

*Sir**Your most humble Servant.**Another upon the same.**SIR,*

THe part which I alwayes tooke in your Interests, shall witnesse unto you at this Present, the excesse of my joy which I conceived at the newes of your Good Fortune: & though I be not one of the first to congratulate it with you, yet I am one of the most sensi-

sensible, in the common Contentment which possesseth the World. The diligence, or delay of a Post can advance, or diminish no mans duty in this kinde of encounter, since nothing but Zeale, and Affection are considerable, which gives mee great confidence at this Present, as being more ~~then~~ any man in the world,

Sir

Your most humble Servant.

Another..

SIR,

DOe not admire that I am one of the last, who congratulate with you, your good fortune: the joy which I conceived was so extreame, that it could afford mee no sooner the Liberty to acquit my selfe. I know, the most of your friends have prevented me, but being their satisfaction is small, I doe not wonder if their diligence be the greater. As for my part, my idlenesse increaseth my Merit, since the stay and Protraction proceeded only from the excesse of the Gladnesse

Sir

of

Your most humble servant.

*Another.**SIR,*

SInce you doubt not the Friendship which I have promised you, you will easily beleeve, that I was extreame sensible of the Good fortune which happen'd you of late, but I must tell you, that as your merit made mee foresee it in you long before it came, so I was not much astonished at the first recitall. I wish you daily the like, or greater advancements, being unable to acquit my selfe otherwise then by prayers of the great debt I owe you. Yet how unfortunate or unprofitable soever I be, doe not cease to continue me in the Number

*Sir**of*

*Your most obedient and faithfull
servants, M.*

*Another.**SIR,*

You must imagine if you please, the resentment which the Newes of your Good Fortune imprinted in me, since I am not able to expresse it as it is in it selfe. But if in this you have neede of any succour, your Memory

mory may assist you by putting you in Minde,
of the Passion which I have for your Service;
'tis that onely which caused the excesse of my
Ioy, and to which you can adde nothing, but
by honouring me with your Commands, since
by that meanes my Obedience may give mee,
the perfect Contentment of being able to
testifie unto you how much I am

Sir

Your most humble servant, and most faithfull.



Answers to the Letters of Congratulation.

SIR,

I Always beleevd you were so Ge-
nerous, as to take part in whatsoe-
ver should concerne me, having be-
gun so strict a Commerce of Reci-
procall Friendship. And I perswade my selfe
likewise, that you make no doubt of the Passi-
on which I have to doe you service (by which
Meanes onely I am able to Merit the Effects
of your Noblenesse.) Whereof you may bee as
Confident, as of the most assured thing in the
World, since I am in heart, and soule,

Sir

Your most humble servant, M.

Another

*Another Answer.**SIR,*

SInce you take part in the good fortune which has befallne me, you must also participate in the advantage of the new Credit which it has brought mee into. This I advertise you of, to the End that you let not any occasion slip, wherein you may procure new proofes of my Passion, nor forget this advice which I give you; since I shall dye of Impatience, if I expect long, the opportunity to witnesse unto you, how deeply I am

*Sir**Your Servant, and Friend, M.**Another Answer.**SIR,*

IAm not to thank you for these new proofes of your Noblenesse which you have shown in my behalfe, because they are actions so proper to your Nature, that without them you could not possibly live. I must give you praises then, instead of thanks, and account my selfe happy, that I serve as an object, to your ver-
tuous

tuous Inclinations, whereof I should become Envious, but that they do not admit any hopes of Imitation : and therefore I reserve admiration only to contemplate them, in Quality

Sir,

of

Your most humble Servant. M.

Another.

SIR,

THe new assurances w^{ch} you have given me of your friendship in bearing part of my good fortune, have yeilded me much more satisfaction then my advancement it self, as preferring the Happiness of your Affection before my owne particular; you have touched me so sensibly, in mingling my interests with your own, that I shall never loose the Remembrance of so great a favour : wishing that some occasion would offer it self whereby I might in some part merit it by the reality of my Service, since I am, and will be, all my life,

Sir,

Your very humble servant. M.

F

Another

Another Answer.

SIR,

You seeme to take pleasure in nothing else, but in giving me dayly new proofs of your friendship, as if I were able to conceive any doubt of it at all. I know that you could not be so noble as you are, except you tooke part in the Content which I receive, for the happy successe, of my affaire. And besides making Profession to love mee, in that height as I honour you, I know there was necessity for your satisfaction, and that you should bee extreamely sensible of the good fortune,

Sir

of

*Your most humble Servant, M.**Another Answer.*

SIR,

IBegan not to day to bee indebted to you for the free Testimonies of your friendship, having given me so many proofes, that the disability to revenge my selfe, has made me ashamed of the Remembrance. But since
you

you partake of the joy which I receive for the gaining of my suit, I conjure you to serve your selfe without exception, of all the Advantages which I have got, if you would really have me beleieve, that you account me of the number of your best friends as well

Sir

as of

*Your most humble and most
faithfull servants.*



*Congratulatory Letters to a Person
of Eminent Quality.*

MY LORD,



Hough I bee one of the last in
Congratulating with your
Lordship the New governe-
ment which the king has be-
stowed upon you; yet I can as-
sure your Lordship, that no
Man forewent mee in witnessing the Resent-
ment of so publike a Ioy. And as this duty
which I render you is valuable according to
the greatnesse of my Zeale, and not of my Di-
ligence, so I thought that though it came
something late, it would not be lesse Conside-
rable,

nable. If I had had no other object but your Lordships good Fortune, I had prevented in this actiō, all that have now got the start of me; but taking nothing into my Consideration, except your Desert & my Inclination to your service, I gave way to my own desires rather than Custome, which is to make my selfe remarked every where in effect, rather than appearance,

My Lord, *Your most humble servant. M.*

Another.

My Lord,

I Could not be silent in the Acclamations of such an universall Gladnesse, being forced to ioine my voice, to other Mens, in Publishing our Commune Contentment touching the *Mareschallship* of France, wherewith the King has beene graciously pleased to honour you; This Action of Iustice is so highly approved by every Person, that your Enemies are constrained to condemne themselves to an everlasting silence, being not able to open their Mouthes, but to their owne Confusion. Live then happily with this part of Good fortune which your merit first made you aspire to, and believe assuredly, that in the whole traine of your Excellencies servants, there shall be very few able to imitate me, in the resolution which I have taken, to carry to my grave, the Quality

MY LORD,

of Your most humble & most obedient Servant. M.



*Letters to a Person of Note, acknowledging
some notable favour received.*

My Lord,



Do not render you this duty
as thanks, for the favours
which your Goodnesse has
beene pleased to heape upon
me, since their excesse forceme
to a silence, as taking from me
all meanes to revenge my selfe. It sufficeth me
you beleewe, that I will sooner loose my selfe,
then the remembrance of your bounty. I know
your Lordship satisfied your selfe first, every
time you obliged me; but being I cannot doe
so, what advantage soever I take, without ren-
dring you some service of consideration, I
humbly beseech your Lordship to grant mee
the Liberty to Importune you at all times to
honour me with your Commands, to the End
that by the Innocency of my observance, you
may be constrained to know, that if you bee ex-
treamely generous, I am no lesse sensible, nor
no lesse,

My Lord,

*Your most humble and most
faithfull Servant. M.*

*Another.**MY LORD,*

IF you expect thanks worthy of the Favours wherewith you have beene pleased to honour mee, I humbly beseech your Lordship to afford mee the tearmes that I may repeat them after you for your satisfaction. I confesse boldly my incapacity to expresse unto your Lordship the relentment which your obligations cause in mee, as well as my disability in meeting with occasions to acquit my selfe. But being Generous actions carry their owne recompense along with them, all that I can doe, is to put your Lordship continually in minde of your Noblenesse, and to publish it in all Corners of the World, together with the Quality

*My Lord,
of*

*Your most humble and most
obedient servant.*

Letters



*Letters to aske Pardon for a
Fault Committed.*

SIR,



IF the confession of my fault, can merit any Grace, I will expect it from your Bounty, not my Intention, because it is Innocent. Tis true I have lost your good Affection by reason of the Passage last night, but since I was surprized by an extremitie of Anger, (which would not suffer mee to consider where I was) I leave the Iudgement of my weaknesse to you, having wholly condemned it my selfe. You know that our first motions are so soveraigne in their violence, that in contempt of reason they will undergoe no lawes but their owne; who should obtaine of you to consider that in the fault which I have committed, there was more contributed by nature, then my own free will; so that I knew not how to avoid it, I know at least how to repent my selfe, of which I assure you most faithfully to the end, that my most humble intreaties for your pardon and
favour

favour, may bee made more acceptable, and
the rather because they proceed,

Sir,

from

Your most humble servant.M.

Another.

SIR,

I Have too great an opinion of your Piety to
make doubt of the Pardon which I crave,
for my fault committed last night, 'tis not
that I feare the Innocence of my Intention is
not able to justifie me, but because I would set
my Minde in quiet, as I have already my Conscience.
This act of acknowledgement should
serve you for a satisfaction, as it does me for a
Penance: putting you in minde of the Passion
which alwayes heretofore I have had to
doe you service, and of the Profession which
I have made, to beare in all places, the Quality,

Sir,

of

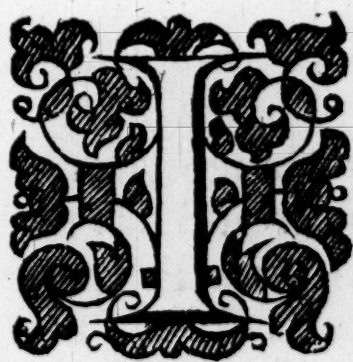
*Your most humble and most
obedient Servant.M.*

Letters



*Letters Reproaching a friend for
the Coldnesse of his Affection.*

SIR,



IF I made not an extream account of your friendship, I would not have complain'd of your silence, nor that Coldnesse which you shew'd at our last meeting. I speake not this, because I would force your Love: but I should bee very glad you would acknowledge the Affection which I have vowed you, whereby you might bee obliged to doe me justice in honoring me with the like, yet I leave you the liberty to doe as you please, against my will, I say against my will, because I have taken Oath, to live and dye

Sir

Your most humble Servant, M.

G

Another

Another.

SIR,

I Am constrain'd to put you in minde of those protestations of friendship which once you made mee, being I perceive that yours growes already weary of her wonted Constancy. You seeme to have forgot at the same time, both the esteeme which I make of your Desert, and the Passion which I have to your service. Sir you may change your humour when you please, if you would have me beleeve you are not fickle in your Promises, and that you know the Art to Conserve eternally, those that Endeare themselves the most to you, as I doe, In Quality

Sir

of

Your most humble servant,

Letters



*Letters to complaine of Backe-
biting Speeches.*

SIR,

 Is told mee that you maintain'd a
Certaine discourse to my disadvan-
tage, I beseech you out of Charity
repent your selfe in time, if you
would not have mee constrain you to a more
rigorous Pennance, I understand not Iesting, if
I begin it not my selfe, wherefore correct your
Pleadings, or I will cause you to loose both
your suit and charges. I give you this faire war-
ning that you may have lesse cause to com-
plaine hereafter, and when I shall perceive you
in as humble a submission as I expect, Ile then
take it into my consideration whether I ought
to be for the time to come, as hitherto I have
beene

Sir

Your most humble servant. M.

G 2

Another

The Secretary *Part 1.*

Another upon the same.

S I R,

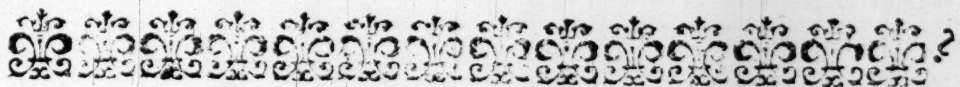
I Understand that when you have nothing else to doe, you take upon you to backbite, a Person very neare allied unto mee. 'Tis the worst trade and most dangerous that you can imploy your selfe in: but if your wine bee the cause of these extravagancies, I advise you to mingle it with water alsoone as you can, otherwise I shall bee constrain'd to force you to such a long silence, that no man shall ever heare you speake hereatter. 'Tis the Charitable advise, if you follow it,

Sir

of

Your servant, M.

Letters



Answers to the Letters of Complaint.

S I R,



Do not write this letter to give you satisfaction, but to comply with my owne Humour, in the Innocence I have alwayes lived ; you are too blame to make those false reporters, my Iudges, from whose sentence I appeale as from an abuse, yet you may beleeeve what you please, being you are unwilling to explicate your selfe any further. And if you be not satisfied with the Assurance I give, that I never dream'd of offending you, I leave you to faire Paper and Inke, wherby you may signifie unto me your minde, and Intention , whether good or bad I care not. It sufficeth me, that you call to remembrance the Name and Quality which I once bore

Sir
of

Your most humble servant. M.

Another Answer.

S I R,

THose that told you I abused your kinf-woman abuse me, I know (without any Mans Intimation) the respect I owe to that sex : and what subject soever she had given me, my reason should alwayes have forced me to hold my Peace. As for the rest, know that wine never made me speake, and if you be so foolish as to beleeeve it, I know a way to punish your folly, I tell you what I meane to doe, that you may have no pretence to say I surprize you unawares, at our next meeting, where I have good hope to make you feelee how worthily I can Chastize, those that will not bee contented with reason, 'Tis the resolution

Sir

of

*Your servant as much as you please. M.**Letters*



*Letters to Iustifie ones selfe
of a Reproach.*

S I R,



Wonder greatly at the injustice
you have done mee, being o-
therwise so reasonable as you
are : you have condemned me
upon the first report of my E-
nemies, without observing any
other Formality then what your passion sug-
gested. I must tell you, you appeare something
too violent in this Encounter, and the more,
because you never seem'd to make doubt of
the passion I had to serve you ; I complaine
then with reason, because your Reproaches
are without reason, and beseech you take the
Paines hereafter to ponder the informations
which shall be made you of a businesse so Im-
portant as this, and particularly when it tou-
ches the Interest

Sir

of

Your most humble servant, M.

Another

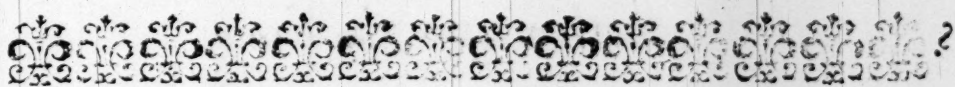
*Another.**SIR,*

I Doe so highly approve of your Iudgement, that I begin to question my Innocence, since it has declared her culpable : yet I must assure you, with your Permission, that my Thoughts did never contribute any thing to the fault whereof you accuse me, and likewise condemne mee, without hearing me speake. But though my misfortune were alwayes such that you should never incline to doe mee reason, yet my conscience should alwayes, that I may rest in Quiet, and peaceably possesse the Quality

Sir
of

Your most humble servant. M.

Letters



*Congratulatory Letters to a new
Married Man.*

SIR,



Reioyce extreamely at the
Happy election you have
made of a wife, since I par-
ticipate with Civility in the
satisfaction which you re-
ceive: being glad that you
have now divided the pow-
er which you had acquired over my affecti-
ons, as honouring at this Present your deare
halfe, with the same respects that heretofore
I rendred to you onely. I will perswade my
selfe, you will make no doubt of it, no more
then of the Passion I have to your Service, In
Quality

Sir

of

Your most humble Servant, M.

H

Another

Another upon the same.

S I R,

DOe not expect that I should formally congratulate with you the good-fortune of your Marriage, since I interesse my selte in all your contentments. It sufficeth me to put you in minde, that your good and ill fortune, shall be the sole cause of all my joyes and discontents, as fully resolved to follow, your Resentments, in Quality

Sir

of

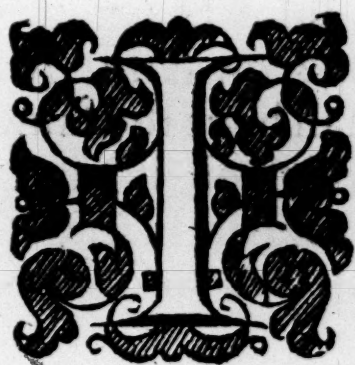
Your most humble servant. M.

Answers



Answers to the Letters of Congratulation.

SIR,



Alwayes beleev'd that you loved me so much as to participate in my Contentments, they are effects of your good nature and noblenesse, to which I am extremely Obliged. But I can assure you, that in the Election I have made of a Wife, you have obtained a new servant, since she partakes already in the Passion, which I have to serve you, being

Sir

Your most humble Servant, M.

The Secretary *Part I.*

Another Answer.

SIR,

I Know you are so Generous that you Inter-
esse your selfe in all things which con-
cerne mee, but I am ashamed of receiving
daily new proofes, since I cannot Encounter
with a fit Occasion to revenge my selfe. All
that I can say then is, that I shall have the same
resentment in all affaires, which shall touch
your Particular, as being by Inclination as well
as reason,

Sir

Your most humble servant. M.

Letters

t i.



Letters of Protestation of Friendship.

SIR,



Hough I have made a vow to
bee your most perfect honou-
rer all my life, and not to re-
mit one poynt of the Passion
which I have to doe you Ser-
vice, yet I shall never Content
my selfe, except some occasion be offered very
suddenly, whereby these Words may be chan-
ged into effects. 'Tis the onely Good Fortune
which I expect with Impatience, being not a
little grieved that I beare in vaine the Quality

Sir

of

Your very humble servant.

H 3

Another

The Secretary Part 1.

Another.

SIR,

DOe not wonder if I importune you so often with my Letters, I have no greater pleasure in the World then to assure you of the esteeme I make of your friendship, and the eternity of minde. 'Tis true, these are but words, but being they are dictated by my heart, I am satisfied in acquitting my selfe of that which I owe you. If occasions to doe you service would offer themselves as often as they doe, to write to you, I would give Testimony by my actions, rather then my Discourse, that I was never in Complement

Sir

Your most humble servant.

Another.

SIR,

SINCE my ill fortune deprives mee of occasions to serve you, I must for my owne satisfaction witnesse unto you the Passion which predominates in me. I know your Desert and Condition have acquired you servants without number, but I can assure you with as much

much ostentation, as Reason, that Ioyne them
all together, I am

Sir

The most humble and most obedient.

Another.

SIR,

THe inclination which I have to esteeme
you more then all the World, will not
suffer mee to let any opportunity slip
without giving you new assurances of this
Truth. Not that I cease to bee in a continuall
impatieney, of expecting occasions to give you
more effectuall proofes, but because they be-
ing not dependant of my will, I satisfie my
selfe, in letting you know that shée shall never
force to other thing, then to make open pro-
fession of the Quality

Sir

of

Your most humble servant.

Answers



*Answers to the Letters Protesting
Friendship.*

SIR,



E as frequent as you please in giving me new assurances of your friendship, all the proofes that you can have of mine, cannot render it more perfect then it is : being I can assure you, that if my in-deavours could take effect, or my vowes accomplishment, you should not long account mee in the number of your unprofitable servants, though

Sir

of

Your most obedient, and most faithfull.

Another

Part 1. *in Fashion.*

a

Another Answer.

SIR,

I Will never refuse the Honour which you doe me in professing to love me extreame-ly, but since I have no merit to oblige you thereunto I dare not publish my good fortune, iustly fearing to bee deprived of it every Moment. Not because I beleeve you will proove fickle, but reasonable, and that therefore your Reason may oblige you, to make me lose this good fortune, which mine onely and your Courtesie acquired me. But whatsoever happen I shall never be other

Sir

*Then your most humble and most
obedient servant*

Another Answer.

SIR,

THOUGH I never made doubt of your friendship, yet I make such esteeme thereof, that you advance me to a new degree of Honour and delight, every time you take the Paines to give mee fresh assurances of it by your letters. 'Tis true, in this you doe but
I answer

assure mine, yet howsoever, the commerce of this kind of entertainment is so delightful, that if I did not apprehend I might be importune, I should write unto you by every opportunity that presented it selfe, being 'tis the onely consolation which I have in your absence, to put you in minde, that I will be eternally

Sir

Your most humble servant. M.

Another Answer.

SIR,

FOR all you love me and esteeme me never so much, you are still indebted to me, since my object is your desert : what proofes soever you give me of your friendship, they are not able to diminish the price of mine, being in a height of Perfection not to be valued. But if my misfortune nourish you in a continuall doubt, I will produce my advantage when you produce your assurances: Desiring nothing so much as to witnesse unto you by effects rather then words, that I am

Sir

Your most humble servant.

Letters

Part I. *in Fashion.*

b



Letters to a Friend in favour of another.

SIR,

HHe bearer of this Letter, a Gentleman, and one of my very good friends, desiring that I would intreat you, (as I doe most humbly,) to oblige him in a businesse whose successe depends wholly in your favour, I knew not how to refuse his merit and condition so poore a Demand: wherefore you shall oblige me extreamely, if you will be pleased to imploy some part of your credit therein, without any other Consideration, but only that you were Requested

Sir

by one of

*Your most humble, and most
obedient servants, M.*

I 2

Another

Another.

SIR,

YOur Desert, and Condition, have made you so Considerable and Necessary, that your friends are alwayes subject to importune you : and amongst the rest I at this Present, in favour of the Gentleman who beares this Letter : beseeching you, to support him with your credit, in a businesse of which hee will informe you. I shall account his obligations, into the Number of mine, and Testifie to you in my owne Particular, the Resentment which I shall conceive in Quality

Sir

*Of Your most humble and most
obedient servant. M.*

Answers

*Answers to the Letters of Favour.**SIR,*

His Gentleman in whose behalfe you tooke the Paines to write unto mee, will tell you by word of mouth, how faithfully I have served you, in obliging him. If you judge mee able to render you any other service, wherein I may finde more satisfaction, as proving it more difficult, it stands upon nothing, but your selfe, to give mee the Employment, being very glad to witnesse unto you at all times how much I am

*Sir**Your servant.*

Another Answer.

SIR,

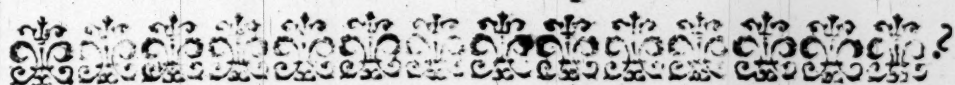
I Esteeme my selfe happy to have met with this little occasion, to doe you service by making your friends businesse (wherof you writ unto mee) bee determined to his advantage. Imployed in it equally, both my Care and industry, not loosing one moment of time, to the end that I might thereby witnesse, in what esteeme I have the honour of your Commands. You may give mee new ones when you please: if you desire new proofes of the Obedience

Sir

of

*Your most humble, and most faithfull
servant, M.*

Letters



*Letters complaining of the Absence
of a Friend.*

S I R,



Hough true friendship bee in
the Proove of absence, yet
yours is of so long continu-
ance, that I imagine you pur-
pose to cast me off, since you
seeme to retire your affection
thus by little and little. I speake confidently,
because I feare extreamely, and you ought to
pardon thi boldnesse and feare, since they
proceed equally from the good inclination I
have to your Service, and the great esteeme I
make of your Friendship. Returne then quick-
ly, if you will free from sorrow and disquiet,

Sir

*The most humble of all your servants
and the most faithfull.*

Another

The Secretary *Part 1.*

Another.

S I R,

I Can endure your absence no longer: you must of necessity shew your selfe oftner then you doe to your friend, for your owne honour, and my satisfaction: I say for your Honour, because it is thereby in Question, since you keepe your selfe so long retired in a place, of which even the Gazette never makes mention. You must not give so much way to your humour, and inclination, that they interesse with them the Contentment, of all that love you. For my owne part, I am resolved to goe seeke you, if you returne not very soone, to which I adjure you, by all the Charmes of the Passion which I have to your service, as being

Sir

Your most humble Servant, M.

Another



*Answers to the Letters which com-
plain of Absence.*

S I R,



Y^eu chide me with such a good
grace, that I could wish to see
you oftner in that humor, since
it obliges me to beleieve that I
am not altogether indifferent to you. 'Tis
true, my absence hath been something long,
but being my presence is unprofitable to my
friends, by the disability I am in to serve them,
I make the lesse account of my absence from
the Court; Yet the only means to occasion
my return, will be, if you testifie unto me
that I can be usefull to you when I am there;
which shall precipitate my haste, being in a
firme resolution to render you all manner
of Service, in quality

Sir,

of

*Your most humble and obedient
servant, M.*

I

An

Another Answer.

S I R,

MY pride will become insufferable, if you interresse your selfe often in the delay of my return. I wonder you can find me wanting at the Court where you have admirers without number ; but if I could be perswaded that my absence did occasion your disquiet, or that my presence could be necessary for your service, you should not be able to detain me from the Town, whither your Commands shall soon call me when you are pleased to expect proofes of my obedience, as being

Sir,

Your most humble servant, M.*Letters to cleare our selves of a false report.*

S I R,



Need not much eloquence to perswade my innocency touching the report which was made to you of late, since I will oblige my selfe to make

make them confesse the truth publickly that have been too shamelesse to maintain the contrary in private. 'Tis a malice so ill contrived, (though black as Hell) that I am perswaded it will deceive it selfe. For what appearance is there, that having received an infinity of favour from your goodnesse, I should so irreverently contemne a thousand other noble qualities that elevate your esteem above the common? I beseech you beleieve that I shall be their admirers all my life, and a continuall flaile to the broachers of this Imposture. I have no respect of persons when my Honor is questioned; I beare a sword to defend it with the hazard of my life, which I esteem far lesse. But if this cannot give you satisfaction, let me know the name of the reporter, and I will make you sport in laying open the particulars of his knavery, and the sincerity of my innocency, which shall give you sufficient never to make doubt of the passion I have to serve you, as being

Sir,

*Your most humble and obedient
servant.*

*An other.**S I R,*

IT is an easie matter for any Man to accuse me, but I defie all the World together, to convince me in the least respect. Tis true, I could not speak in that Company, but some must heare me ; but, be pleased to shew me my adversary, and Ile engage my self to make him signe me an acquittance of my innocency with his owne blood. I boast of nothing that I will not doe; for let me but know the broachers of that imposture: and I will easily let you know their malice, which shall force you to beleieve (as I most humbly intreat you) that I will sooner loose my life than the honour and stile of being

Sir,

*Your most humble and most obedient
servant, M.*

*An other.**S I R,*

IWill not justifie my selfe with words, of the aspersion laid upon me, desiring by effects to let you see my innocency as clear,
as

as the malice of those that would have blemished it, black and pernicious. I beseech you think that I shall never be able to forget the respect I owe you; and if any have the boldness to accuse me of it, my Sword shall impose them a most rigorous penance, since I prefer to be alwayes what I alwayes was

Sir,

Your most humble Ser-
vant, M.



Answers to the Letter of Justification.

S I R,

TIs true, I was told you abused mee behind my back ; but since I never gave you cause, and on the other side your discretion being sufficiently knowne to me, I was not so much as tempted to give credit to it ; you needed not then have justified your selfe of a fault whereof I esteem'd you alwayes innocent. The reputation you bear in all places of the World, may seem as a judge to condemne your accusers,

I 3

fers ; wherefore you may sleep in quiet, since I account my selfe disinterested, and place me in the number

Sir,

of

Your most humble, and most affectionate servants.

Another Answer.

S I R,

BEfore I can declare you guilty, you must confesse your self faulty with your own mouth ; for the testimonies of all the World, cannot convince the good opinion I have of your integrity. Men may calumniate your reputation as much as they please, but I shall alwayes hold your accusers to be in the fault, since it is impossible I should lose the esteem which I conceive of your desert, being

Sir,

Your most humble servant.

Letters



Letters to a sick Friend.

S I R,

THe news of your sicknesse hath bred such a change in my health, that I may justly count my selfe in the number of those that are not well.

Take courage then, if you will give it me; you know the intent I have in all things concerning your particular. In a word, if you leave not your bed very suddenly, I shall be constrained to take it. These are the Protestations

Sir,

of

Your very humble servant, M.

Another.

S I R,

IWill not tell you how extreamely sensible the sorrowfull news of your sicknesse was to me; only I must put you in mind that your disease cannot chuse but be
very

very contagious, having infected one hither. I could wish, for your service and my contentment, that I were neare you; but my misfortune is such, that it ties me to certain affaires in this Town, which by no meanes I am able to abandon. Yet all these obstacles shall not hinder me from acquitting my selfe of my duty, if you esteem me usefull to render you any manner of service, of which I give you most faithfull assurance, as protesting to be all my life,

Sir,

Your most humble servant, M.



*Answers to the Letters Written to a
sick Friend.*

S I R,

IF I had sooner recovered my health, I had sooner returned you thanks for the resentment you wittnesed to have of my sicknes: but being it kept me very long, I was constrained to delay my acknowledgement till this very present: though 'tis not from this encounter onely that I know how sensible you are of al things concerning your Friends, which makes you have them without
number;

number; but I can assure you, that put them all together, I am

Sir,

The most obedient and most faithfull.

An other Answer.

S I R,

AS soon as ever I was able to hold a pen, I served my self of the opportunity to render you thanks, for the consolation which you gave me, in the delightfull entertainment of your letters. Yet, I pray you Sir, deprive me not of this contentment, if you would not have me sick againe. For I can assure you, tis a very great satisfaction to me to see my self honoured with the favour of your remembrance, in Quality

Sir,

of

Your most humble servant, M.

K *Letters*



*Letters to demand the protection of a
strange Prince.*

S I R,



Hough I have not the honour to be knowne to your Highnesse, yet the esteem that al the World makes of your Royall vertues, gave me the boldnesse most humbly to beseech your Majestie to grant me protection within the Lands of your Obedience. I am not guilty of any crime that should make me blush; and if I have violated the Lawes of my owne Prince, it was but to obey the Law which Honour had imposed upon me before. This makes me expect from your Highnes bounty, al manner of assistance, since onely the profession of Souldier made me quit my owne Country. Your Highnesse will augment by this action the number of your Creatures, since thereby I shall vow my selfe to live and dye in quality

of

Your Highnesse

Most humble servant, M.

Anther

Another.

S I R,

THe Bruit of your Highnesse renowne
occasion'd my entrance into the Lands
of your Obedience, not knowing where
to find a more assured harbour in the World.
I hope your Highnesse will not violate for me
alone, the Lawes which your wisdom has
already made in favour of distressed and guilty
persons ; and though I be no otherwise
than the right of Honour dos permit, yet I
most humbly implore your Majesties protection
as extreamly conducing to my repose
and quiet. For my birth and condition, I
thought it not necessary to reveale them, till
your Highnesse command oblige me to it, being
sufficient to give you assurance, that I have
committed no crime whereof all men that
make profession of Honour, may not be justly
accused and convicted together ; But I will
be all my life

Your Highnesse

Most humble, most obedient, and most obliged servant, M.



Letters witnessing unto a Friend the contentment we receive in serving him.

S I R,

I Should expresse but one part of my Contentment, though I should say in doing you service I receive all the satisfaction the World is able to afford; for your merit is so considerable, that there is no divertisement like the continuall action of executing your commands. Doe not think that I complement, but beleeve infallibly that my heart, mouth, and pen, conspire together every time I give you assurance, as I doe now, that I am more than all the World.

Sir,

Your most humble servant.

An other.

S I R,

You are so generous that you know by experience what contentment men receive in doing their friends service; for

I. **Part I. in Fashion.**

69

for my owne particular, I think nothing can be added to mine, such a sensible feeling I have of it every time you are pleased to honour me with your commands. I pray you then be not so sparing, since it is my whole delight, and since I shall importune you for nothing else, in the resolution I have taken, to beare beyond my grave, the Quality

Sir,

of

Your most humble and most obedient servant.

Another.

S I R,

I Never esteem'd my selfe happy till the day wherein you were pleased to give mee an employment for your service, as being the only thing in the world I aspir'd to with most passion. I would you were alwayes in th'humour to honour me with your commands, as I am alwayes to obey them, which you shall doe me a great favour to beleeve, and besides that

that I am unfeignedly and without reservation

Sir,

*Your most humble and most faithfull
servant.*



Answers to the precedent Letters.

S I R,



Very time you are pleased to give me sure testimonies of your friendship, I find my selfe most powerfully touched by my ordinary impatience, of incountring with some opportunity to revenge my selfe; but since you are extreemly reasonable, I will force my selfe to beleeve, that you consider rather the price of my zeale, than the misfortune of my disability, so that making no doubt of the passion I beare to your service, you will place mee alwayes in the rank .

Sir,

of

*Your most obedient and most faithfull
servants, M.*

Antber

An other Answer.

S I R,

I Know 'tis your ordinary delight to oblige all the World, without expecting as much as thanks ; but I beseech you believe that I am too honestly envious of your noblenesse, that every time you are pleased to give me new proofes thereof, I live in all the tortures of the World, till I have encountered with the means of requiting it. And finding my selfe in that case at this present, I am forced to represent unto you my disquiet, that I may not be accused of ingratitude, and lesse of negligence, in seeking occasions to testifie unto you how perfectly I am

Sir,

*Your most humble and obliged
servant, M.*

An other Answer.

S I R,

I Is not enough to oblige continually your friends ; friendship commands that you should serve your selfe of them

them, in all kind of encounters ; to which I conjure you, if you desire I should beleieve that you love me extreamely. I will never importune you with other things, in the grief I remain, to beare unprofitably, the Quality

Sir,

of

Your most humble and obedient servant.

Another Answer.

S I R,

IT would be very hard for me to expresse how strictly I am yours; for what proofes soever my obedience were able to give you, they could resent but one part of the passion which I have to your service, as being, inimitably

Sir,

Your most humble and faithfull servant.

An other Answer.

S I R,

I Am resolved to beseech you would be pleased to honour mee continually with your commands, since you are pleased to produce continually new proofes of your friend-

friendship. These shall be all the intreaties I will make you, to the end that my obedience may serve me for an occasion, in serving you according to the passion which raignes in me. And to witnesse unto you, that there be few in the World can vaunt with reason, that they are to that height as I am

Sir,

Your most humble and most obedient servant.

Another Answer.

S I R,

IT would be very hard for mee to reckon up the obligations which I have to you; You are too noble in all respects, (and especially when it stands upon the interests of your friends) that it is sufficiently seene you take great pleasure in having no equall. Yet I must tell you freely, that I am one of your Enviuers, as well as of your Admirers, being Jealous of the continuall Generosity you exercise in my behalfe, not leaving mee so much leasure as to ruminate upon the means of acknowledgement. 'Tis my turne now to let you know, I am not insensible, and that if you be extreamly well skill'd in the

L

Art

Art of obliging all the World, I am not altogether ignorant of the Art of acquitting my selfe. I beseech you beleieve it, and that I am without Complement

Sir,

Your most humble servant, M.

Another Answer.

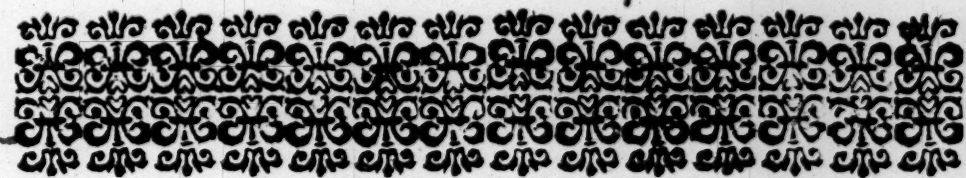
S I R,

I Begin to grow weary of your favours; the disability in which I find my selfe, will not suffer me to receive any new one, for feare I should be constrain'd in the End to passe for Ungratefull. Wherefore except I encounter with some favourable occasion, wherein I may witnesse the Passion which I have to serve you, I will never adde any thing to this number of obligations. This is my Humor, my Resolution being to professe my selfe all my Life

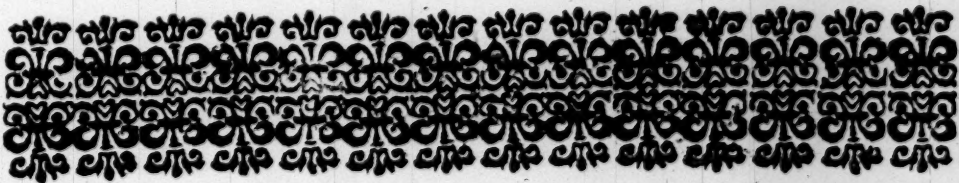
Sir,

Your most humble servant, M.

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SECOND PART
OF
The Secretarie
in Fashion.



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A Letter Consolatory to a
*Father upon the Death of his
 Sonne.*

S I R,



THE sorrowfull newes of your
 Sonnes Death, touched mee
 very feelingly, and the more,
 because I had the honour of
 his acquaintance, and particu-
 lar knowledge of his Deserts.

The love which you have sustain'd, is very great
 I confesse; but you must likewise confesse that
 unavoydable evils, are to be endured with
 constancy. I speak not this to condemne your
 Sighes and Teares, for I doe willingly ap-
 prove of them, yea, even in excesse: but to let
 you know, that after you have satisfied your
 humour, you must a little give place to rea-
 son, being you shall receive as much glory in
 drying vp your Teares, as you did once plea-
 sure in shedding them. I know your Sonne

was the onely Comfort which remained to you in this World, and that his presence meerly did make you live contented even amongst the peevishnesses of old age. But all this induceth mee to beleve that God deprived you of him, for no other Reason, but onely to comfort you hereafter in himselfe, as being the onely Good which is subject to no Change. He calls himselfe a Jealous God; wonder not then if he be Jealous of the unmeasurable love you bore to your Childe. And if his Providence hath found a meanes to oblige you, in robbing you of an object which possesse all your affections together, you on the other side are obliged this Day to make him the object of your Thanksgiving, and not of your Complaints. This is that which I expect at the hands of your Magnanimity, and soundnesse of Judgement; the weakenesse of mine, detaining mee from passing further, being assured that you are able your selfe to be your own Comforter. It sufficeth me that I acquit my selfe of my Duty, in witnessing to you the griefe I conceive for your Misfortune, and the continuall care I shall have to blaze my selfe wheresoever I come,

Sir,

Your most humble servant.

The



The Answer.

S I R,

I Am obliged to you, for the charitable counsell you were pleased to give me upon the Death of my Sonne : But suffer me to tell you (after my humble thanks) that my affliction is of such a Nature, that Death only is able to give me satisfaction, so that I find my selfe constrained to go seek my remedy in my Grave ; and yet I doe not murmure against the providence of God ; though I must assure you that without a particular Grace , and sensible miracle, I shall faint under the burden of my misfortune. Yet I beseech you Sir, doe not deprive mee of the Comfor of your Letters, knowing I cannot enjoy the Happinesse of your Company : And above all things, remember me in your Prayers, since I expect no succour but from Heaven. I am ever

Sir,

Your most humble servant.

Another

Another Answer.

S I R,

YOur deare Letter concerning the death of my Sonne, had much allayd my Greife, if my affliction had been capable of any Comfort; Yet I esteeme my self extreamly obliged to you for the part you seem to take in my Misfortune, in which you testifie that you are equally both of a Generous Disposition, and a Good Friend. Sir, the sorrow which oppresseth me, has left mee nothing but sighes and teares to offer you up in acknowledgement, it sufficing mee (since it is true) that you beleewe I am and will be everlastingly

Sir,

Your very humble servant.

*Letters Consolatory to a Sonne, upon the
Death of his Father.*

S I R,



Had sooner condoled with you the losse of your Father, if I had sooner judged you capable of Consolation. I thought it fit to afford you some time,

time, to pay (with the abundance of your Teares) the debt you owed to Nature; but now having satisfied your selfe, by the public Testimony which you have given of your Sorrow, I come amongst others, to acquit my selfe of my obligation, and to perswade you to patience, assuring you that I am very sensible of the excesse of your Affliction. I know you have practised that vertue in a thousand Encounters of Misfortune, which have made you able to give lessons to all the rest of the World; So that all I am to doe, is to put you in mind, that both you and I make all the haste possible after him whose absence we deplore with too much Lamentation; and that without a particular Favour of God Almighty, we shall be even at his heeles, before we be worthily prepared for so great a Voyage. This I made bold to remember you of, and likewise that I am, as much as ever

Sir,

Your most humble servant, M.

Another Letter.

TIs not to Comfort you of the losse which you have sustained, that I put Pen to Paper, but rather to give Testimony

mony of the Resentment which I feele, knowing the Ability of your judgement, and weaknesse of my owne. It sufficeth mee to represent unto you, that in the Necessity of dying or being born, Nature does oblige every man to goe the Way that is Marked out for him; Tis no matter how long and strong some men be, they all meet together at the Grave, and being arived there, none makes account of the Time which they imployed in going that Voyage. For our owne particulars, let us consider how many yeares we have already spent since we began it; and in this very Moment that you read this, we may propose to our selves the End of it, by the Imagination of a hidden death. As for your Father, he dyed but for himselfe, and has perhaps left you a while to play his Part here in this World, which ought in my opinion to leave you more Envy than Sorrow, knowing that he has already cast Anchor in that haven whether you tend with might and maine. I would say more, if I made no conscience to detain your Eyes too long upon this Paper; you must give them yet a little time to sleepe, since your Griefe is just; in which I take a large Part, in Quality

Sir,

of

Your most humble servant.

Another

Another Letter.

S I R,

I Am too much your Servant, to remaine Dumbe, and Insensible, at the sorrowfull report of your Fathers death. These lines in acquitting me of what I owe you, wil testifie unto you the Part I take in your affliction. I think it will be hard for you to comfort your selfe after such a Losse; but since God does never Afflict us above our force, let the force of your judgement work your Consolation. The most sweet consideration you can have, is that you were witnessse of the last actions which your Father did, before his retreat, out of this World; which having either few or no examples, may be a sufficient cause of your Quiet, every time you consider their importance. Live honestly as he did, and dye in the same Manner; you are in the right way to the Place whither he is gone: and if he have anticipated you some few dayes, those will seeme but a Moment, when you are arived at the End. Solace your selfe then in his absence, since the innocency wherein you live, is an Infallible Assurance to you that you shall see him very suddenly. I will give you like undoubted Testimony of the

Passion which I have to your Service, whensoever you please to honour mee with your Commands, as being

Sir,

Your most humble servant.



Answers to the Letters of Consolation.

S I R,

W Doe not excuse the Long time that I have staid in returning you thanks for the part which you did mee the Honour to take in my affliction; because the Griefe is still so sensible to mee, that I cannot imploy my Spirit without Violence, in any other thoughts but those of my Misfortune: Not that I remaine not entirely Resigned to the Wil of God, and fully Resolved to Patience: but yet all this cannot hinder my Sorrow from Enjoying an absolute Possession of mee: and for an Encrease of Mischiefe, my grieve-sick Humour does render it so agreeable, that I have not so much Liberty as to Complaine, though it devour me by Little and Little. Yet I cease not to
be

be extreemly obliged to you, for your Pious and Charitable Counsells, which you were pleased to give mee, assuring you that I will take my ordinary Lessons of Comfort out of them. Notwithstanding, I must tell you with my ancient freedom, that as my Affliction comes from above, 'tis from thence onely that I expect a Remedy. How good a Physician soever Time be, I desire nothing of you but Prayers, intermingled with Commands; to the end that my obedience may make mee worthy the good opinion you have

Sir,

of

Your most humble servant.

Another Answer.

S I R,

I Must confesse your Charitable letter did much comfort the losse which I lately sustained; and the more, because it gave Testimony of your feeling in my Affliction. In such accidents as these, I never find more Consolation, than to see my selfe lamented by my Friends; amongst whom since you possesse the first rank, I leave to your owne consideration whether your Letter were agree-

M 3

able

able to me, or no: Yet for all that, I cannot cease my Teares, my Sorrow increasing upon mee daily more and more, through the Remembrance of the Misfortune which was the cause of it. And truly after this Losse, I cannot apprehend any other; which might serve me for a very effectuall admonishment, if I were Capable of receiving any. I would say more, if my Teares did not blot out my Writing: Wherefore in briefe, I doe desire of you, that you would be pleased to Conserve me the Honour of your Remembrance, and adde not the Losse of your Friendship to this which I already sustaine; since I am with Passion

Sir,

*Your most humble and most obliged
servant.*



*Letters Consolatory to a Husband upon the
Death of his Wife.*

S I R,



Know not in what Tearmes to begin to comfort you, your Losse appearing to mee so great, by reason of the excesse of your Affliction,

on, and my Resentment, that I am farre more disposed to accompany your teares, than able any way to solace your Misery. You know Misfortune has taught mee by Experience to value a Discontent of that Nature, having heretofore shed teares for the same subject. So that representing to my selfe that which I have suffered in a like Incounter, I must needs tell you, you are not to expect your Remedy from any Place but Heaven. Though I deny not but Time may worke much upon that kind of Malady ; yet the Terme is so long, that the little remainder of Quiet, which is left after the Purge of our discontent, stays not so long as to give us an absolute and full Possession of it. Wherefore be assured, that God will not abandon you, if you adore his Providence with submission ; a Meanes to which, is, if you Consider that you are continually in Election to see your Wife againe, and sooner too than perhaps you imagine. Pardon mee Sir, for my freedome of speech ; I cannot flatter you, being to that Point, as I am,

Sir,

Your most humble servant.

Another

Another.

S I R,

THough I be not able to Comfort you in your Wifes death, yet it is sufficient for my satisfaction, that I witnes unto you the great part which I take in your Affliction : onely I will put you in Minde, that in Sorrowfull Accidents, Patience is the cheif Remedy, after our Resignation to the Will of God. Our teares and Complaints are in vaine, since they doe but provoke Heaven, in stead of appeasing it. When you espoused that vertuous Lady, the Notary who passed the Contract of your Marriage, forgot not to insert this Clause, that the survivor should enjoy the rights of Widdowship. What reason have you then, to lament a Death which you foresaw so long since, as if you had been assured, when you tooke her, shee had not been subject to it ? She prevented you in an Inevitable Action ; and perhaps it will not be much ; Ten yeares more or lesse, are but an instant to that of Death ; For which I would wish you prepare your selfe ; what leasure soever you have, I can assure you you will have very little spare time. But I must not incurre the Fault from which I promised to exempt my selfe. I aske you
Pardon

Pardon, since my Crime is occasioned by my Zeale, as being

Sir,

Your most humble servant.

Another.

S I R,

THe Friendship and service I vowed to you long agoe, have made mee so sensible of the sorrowfull Newes of your Wifes death, that I stand in need of the Consolation which all the World does administer to you. Expect not then any Comfort from mee, being afflicted as I am. All that I can say to you, is, that your Wife dying in that innocency, in which shee alwayes lived, has left you in my Opinion a greater cause of Envy, than of Sorrow. Wherefore, I would not have you Dreame of any thing so much, as of following her; and since you are every houre hastening to your end, change the Nature of your teares, lamenting more that she has left you behind her, than that she is gone before you. This is all the Counsell I can give you, together with a new assurance that I will live and dye

Sir,

Your most humble servant.

N

Answers

*Answers to the Precedent Letters.**S I R,*

HE Griefe which I conceived for the losse of my Wife, would not permit mee sooner to render you thanks, for the pious resentment you witnesse in her behalfe. I always thought you would participate in my Misfortunes, because you did mee the Honour to love mee: And the rather because I knew you were interested in my Sorrow, as having lost a most humble Servant. Yet I remaine indebted to you for the Charitable care which you took in comforting mee, though it were in vaine, since I cannot so soone quit the memory of a Losse so important to my repose. Men may tell me as much as they please, that my Misery is without reliefe; 'tis because of that that I am void of Comfort. To cure it, is a work of the Hand of God; and all that Time and my Friends are able to contribute, does but serve to dispose the matter, which the Almighty must informe when he pleaseth. Yet Sir, though my Misfortunes be in their Flood, they have not drowned the respectfull

2. **Part 2.** *in Fashion.*

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ſpectfull obſervance I alwayes uſed in your behalfe, as having made a vow to coffin up with my ſelfe the Quality

Sir,

of

Your moſt faithfull ſervant.

Another Answer.

S I R,

I Could heartily wiſh, that the Sorrow I conceive for my Wifes death, were capable of Conſolation, that ſo I might make uſe of the Charitable precepts you were pleaſed to give me, for which I render you moſt humble thanks : But truly Sir, my Affliction is ſo great, that if God doe not ſoone play the Phyſitian, I can expect remedy from nothing but death. So that how conſtantly ſoever I beare my Miſfortune, the very Sorrow wherewith it is accompanied, will thruſt me by little and little into my Grave. Not that I have not wholly reſigned my ſelfe to the will of God, but becauſe being not able to make this Reſignation in all points abſolute, the remainder of my Liberty ſerves to no other end but to torment me : Make your

N 2

Prayers

Prayers to Heaven for me, that it would please to conduct mee suddenly into that haven of Quiet where you now are: I expect of your devotion, this favour from the Divine goodnesse, as you ought to expect all manner of service from the friendship I have vowed to you, as being with Passion

Sir,

Your most humble servant.

Another Answer.

S I R,

I Can thank you for nothing but your good will which you witnessed to me, in those wholesome counsels you were pleased to give me touching the Losse which I have lately sustain'd; For how powerfull soever your reasons be, they can never lessen my sorrow, and much lesse be able to heale it. Those that see my Misfortune, consider it but as an accident that arrives every day, and which torments at the same time an infinite number of Husbands: but if they could penetrate into the bottome of my Soule, that they might know the just cause of my continual lamentations, the wisest of them would be constraind to approve the Eternity of my complaints, since

since they would know thereby how hopelesse they are of cure. 'Tis true there is nothing else now able to give me satisfaction, which makes me find some kind of Comfort in the shortning of my dayes, since I solace my selfe in my departure, knowing it tends to the accomplishment of my Griefe. Youle tell me perhaps I speak not like a Christian; I am one howsoever; but the Affliction to which I have abandond my selfe, will not suffer me to enjoy any other Light, than that which shows the way to my Grave. I returne to the obligation wherein I am bound to you for the Honour of your Remembrance and charitable admonitions, and to witnesse unto you the Resentment they have left in me in Quality

Sir,

of

Your most humble servant.

Another Answer.

S I R,

I Confesse the Admonitions which you used in the last letter wherewith you were pleased to honour mee, touching the losse

which I have sustained of late, by the Death of my Wife, were so Ponderous, that I could not chuse but receive thereby great Consolation. 'Tis needfull (as you say very well) that our first lesson of Constancy, should be the resignation of our wils to God: and that al the Study which we are to imploy therein, should be but to perfect that Action. I acknowledge it very willingly; the experience which I have learn'd, will suffer mee to make no further doubt. For God laid the Affliction upon me, and he himselfe is my Comforter. His Justice punished me, but his Goodnesse has made me find so much sweetnes in my Misery, that in stead of Complaints, I am bound to render him Everlasting Thanksgiving. Howsoever, continue me the Favour of your good Counsels, with the Honour of your Friendship, and beleeve if you please, that I will be all my life,

Sir,

Your most humble and most obedient servant.

Consolatory



Consolatory Letters to a Lady or Gentlewoman upon her Husbands Death.

M A D A M,

Had no sooner heard the sorrowfull newes of your Husbands death, but I put Pen to paper, to witnesse unto you at the same time, both the Sorrow which I conceive, and the Resolution which I have taken to die in your Ladyships service. If I thought my selfe able to comfort you, I would do my endeavour most freely; but the Remembrance of your Vertue forbids mee, since it alone is sufficient to give you the Lessons, which it made you practice heretofore, in other encounters of Misfortune. Tis true, this is more penetrating than all the rest; therefore your Constancy should employ all her Endeavours to surmount your Griefe: and since Grace onely can give us the greatest part of our force, you have more (in my opinion) to hope for than to feare, in this Combat. What if Heaven be provoked against us; it never afrights us with the noyse of his Thunder, but it rejoyceth us very suddenly with the cleare shining light of his Sunnes beames. But if you be pressed with impatience
in

in this Surprisall of Sorrow, dry up your teares, cease the continuation of your Sighs, you shall find the Sovereigne Remedy of all your Ills, in the practice of these actions. Mine shall be alwaies directed to your Honour and Service, as being from my heart rather than Mouth,

Madam,

Your most humble servant, M.

Another.

M A D A M,

I Find in my selfe a greater disposition to lament with you the losse which you have sustained, than I judge my selfe able to give you comfort. For if you be deprived of a Husband whom you loved intirely, I am robbed of a Friend for whom I would have adventured a thousand Lives. Truly Madam, I am so wholly taken up in my own Sighes, and teares, that I cannot think of yours, but in some intermediating Houres, be they never so extreame. So that in stead of giving you Comfort, I am more like to perswade you to render your Complaints Everlasting. You may seek an other Husband to a faire purpose, the

the World is too narrow to find his Equall. And for my selfe, I may truly say, the mould of my old Friend being broken, I should spend my Travaile in vaine, if I went about to parallell him amongst my new ones. Let us then solace our selves in our affliction Madam, since it is extreame: the Extremity of it will soone teach us the way to our Graves where wee shall find a Remedy for our ills. If it be lawfull to love perfectly, no man will hinder us to lament without cease, since continuall tears are the Testimonies of a Perfect Love. In the case I am in at this present, I am able to give you no other advice; yet if God give you the Grace to despise my Counsell, I shall never reproach you for it, but rather beseech you that you would make your Prayers to God, for my like happinesse, and to beleeve that if I be extreamely afflicted, I am no lesse

Madam,

Your most humble servant.

Another.

MADAM,

HAVING given you a thousand Testimonies of the particular esteem I made of your Husband, I hope you will
O not

not now doubt of the Resentment which remains to mee for his Losse. These lines notwithstanding shal give you a new assurance of it, and likewise of the good will I have to doe you service. If I were capable of giving Consolation, I would begin with my selfe, being sensibly touched with the same affliction which torments you. But I leave that care to your Judgment and Vertue, considering that the strength of the one will supply my weaknesse, and the precepts of the other will exceed all the Counsell and advice I can impart to you. Besides knowing you to be wholly resigned to the Will of God, that Resignation will be the soveraigne remedy of your distresse. The Heavens doe alwayes afford us Comfort for the ills they send us; but they expect submission, to make us worthy of that favour which I hope you are already in state to obtaine, it being the only Meanes to live at Quiet in the middle of Distresses; For my part, I will alwayes interesse my selfe in yours, as being with Passion the same I alwayes was,

Madam,

*Your most humble and most obedient
servant.*

Answers



Answers to the precedent Letters.

S I R,

I Beleeve the Losse I sustained in the death of my late Husband, does touch you very sensibly, since in your own particular you are robbed of a most real friend, and faithfull Servant: but for as my own interest, my Affliction is so great, that if God do not comfort mee very suddenly, I shall die very suddenly of Griefe. You may judge by the state I am in at this present, what Comfort I can expect from my Misery; for, as my Fortune and Happinesse are equally buried in my Husbands Grave, except he revive, I shall never be able to revive out of the Grave of Sadnesse, and Discontent. All that I have resolved in this extremity, is, to resigne my selfe totally to the Will of God; and since your Prayers may be favourable to me in that behalf, I beseech you for their continuation, for which I shall be indebted to you all my life, and in Quality

Sir,

of

Your most humble servant.

O 2

Another

Another Answer.

S I R,

THrough my Teares, I read the Comfortable Letter which you did me the Honour to write unto me, touching the Death of my late Husband; and the little space which I employed in drying them up, gave me time to render you thanks. I resolved to have writ more at large, when I took Pen in hand; but the sorrow which I endure, will scarce give mee liberty to assure you that I am

Sir,

Your most humble servant.

*A Letter from a Widlow, certifying a friend
of her Husbands Death.*

S I R,

His Sorrowfull Letter shall inculcate nothing but death into your memory, assuring you that you have lost a most reall admirer, and faithfull servant, in the
Person

Person of my Husband. Pardon me if I say
no more; the Pen falls out of my Hand, and
my teares blot out my writing. I am the most
afflicted Woman in the World,

Sir,

and

Your most humble servant.



*A Letter from a Husband to his Wife, com-
forting her upon the Death of their Son.*

W I F E,



IT is with an extreame Sorrow
that I am constrain'd to trouble
your Quiet at this present with
newes which at the first view wil
be able to beare you into your
Accustomed extremity, if it be
not supported by the Resignation of your
will to God. But knowing that you are al-
wayes disposed to undergoe the Lawes of his
Providence, I take the boldnesse to let you
know that that very Providence of God, has
founded a retreat out of this World, to our
eldest sonne. This Accident, how new and
strange soever it seeme, must not soe strictly
seize upon you, that you murmur against the

Author. You must resist the attempts of Sorrow by my example ; and after you have shed some Teares, which the Quality of Mother will constrain you to, you must adore (in drying them up) the Omnipotency of him that gave the blow ; To the end that he redouble not his Wrath, in depriving us of the Comfort which as yet remains with us. Doe not think that I am insensible at this Misfortune ; it touched me to the Quick ; and the more, because I am constrained to partake it with you. But since God has ordaind us to this Affliction, we ought to witnesse by the Moderation of our Complaints, that there is no excesse in his Chastisement. I leave the thought of all these Considerations to your self, with assurance that I remaine,

Deare wife,

Your most faithfull Husband.

LOVE



LOVE LETTERS
upon all sorts of
Subjects.

*And First of Presentation of
Service.*

M A D A M,

TH E inclination which I have to
esteem you more than all the
rest of the World, obliged mee
at this Present, to offer your La-
dyship my most humble Service:
And to assure you, that if you be
pleased therewith, I shall never change the
Resolution, to be all my life

Madam,

*Your most humble and most obedient
servant.*

Another

*Another.**M A D A M,*

I Should not take the Liberty to let you know how extreamly I honour you, if the Absolute power of your Beauty did not force me to it. Which relating unto you the violence it useth in my behalfe, will easily (I hope) obtaine Pardon for my Presumption. My desire in this is no other but onely to know whether you be pleased I should Everlastingly beare the Quality

*Madam,**of**Your most humble and most obedient servant, M.**Another.**M A D A M,*

I Could no longer conceale the Resolution which I have taken, to serve you all my life, and beare the Character of your love eternally, if my Service and Love bee agreeable to you. You may signifie it to me, when you please, that I may have the Honor,
and

and Satisfaction to beare in Publick every
where the Quality

Madam,

of

*Your most humble and most obedi-
ent servant, M.*

Another.

M A D A M,

I Must of necessity for my owne Quiet de-
clare the desire which I have, to love, and
serve you, if you Judge mee worthy so
great an honour. Your merit obliged mee,
and my Inclination constrained mee to it. I
expect only to know your will, that I may
perfect my determination of professing pub-
lickly the stile

Madam,

of

Your most obedient servant.

P

Answers

*Answers to the Precedent Letters.**S I R,*

I Am much obliged to you for the good will you witnesse in my behalfe: but I have no other Liberty left mee, except to give you thanks, as I doe very humbly: assuring you that I will conserve your Remembrance for an acknowledgement, in Quality

Sir,

of

*Your most humble servant.**Another Answer.**S I R,*

I Have nothing but thanks to offer up to you for the Honour you were pleased to doe mee in your last Letters. And though they be ordinary effects of your Civility, rather then Proofes of your love, yet I cannot chuse but be extreamly obliged to

to you, which I beseech you beleeve, and likewise that I am

Sir,

Your most humble servant.

Another Answer.

S I R,

I Doe not excuse my selfe of not answering your last letter, because my Wil does so absolutely depend of my Parents inclination, that you are to learne of them, that which you desire to know of mee. Yet your good will shall oblige mee to be in acknowledgement, all my life,

Sir,

Your most humble servant.

Another Answer.

S I R,

You know that in the state I am, I must neither accept nor refuse the Offers which you make me, contenting my selfe to witnesse unto you the Resentment
P 2 which

which they left in mee, with assurance that I honour so much the Merit of your Mistresse that I shall alwayes preferre it before the Condition

Sir,

of

Your most humble servant,



Letters to demand an Answer.

M A D A M,



Our Silence nourisheth a Continuall doubt in mee, whether my Service be acceptable or noe. You may Resolve me when you please by some short Answer, if you Judge me worthy the favour and Quality

Madam,

of

Your most humble, and most obedient servant.

Another.

Another.

M A D A M,

IF you knew with what impatience I expect the favour of your Reply, I assure my selfe your Charity would oblige you, to set my Mind at Quiet; But as that is an Honour, which I must expect from your Goodnesse, rather than the Passion I have to your Service (not knowing whether it be agreeable to you or no) I must have recourse to prayers, beseeching you very humbly to vouchsafe an Answer, which may authorize the Quality, I beare

Madam,

of

Your most humble and most obedient servant.

Another.

M A D A M,

THe Resolution I have taken to serve you all my life, does too far interesse my Repose, not to desire your Pleasure in that respect, I hope for this favour from your Goodnesse, as you ought to expect

from my duty, all manner of observance;
being desirous to live and die, if you bee
pleased,

Madam,

*Your most humble, and most obe-
dient servant.*

Another.

M A D A M,

THis Letter is so Curious to learn newes
of her former Companion, that shee
would needs be gone in that Pursuit, al-
most against my wil. Let me know then if you
please whether the first was acceptable or
no, to the end that either I may continue you
my service, or cease to be further importune.
These are the most humble prayers

Madam,

of

*Your most obedient ser-
vant, M.*

Answers



Answers to the Precedent Letters.

S I R,

I Took the Liberty to write unto you, but not to resolve you in your request. You know the Quality of Daughter does so subject mee, that I cannot violate the Respect I owe unto my Parents ; yet I confesse my selfe much indebted to your good Nature, being

Sir,

Your most humble servant.

Another Answer.

S I R,

I Was resolved to keep silence, not knowing what answer to give you ; but since you require a letter, this shall tell you, that I have no other Resolution than to honour you as your Merit does oblige me : And that in requitall of your Civility, I shall make my selfe accounted in all places

Sir,

Your most humble servant.

Another

*Another Answer.**S I R,*

I Send you this Letter, because you desire it, but it is only to assure you of the small ability I have to satisfy your request: You know you are to address your selfe to others then to me. Yet I beseech you beleeve that I esteem my selfe much Honoured in the testimony of your Affection, being

*Sir,**Your most humble servant.**Another Answer.**S I R,*

I Am obliged to you for two letters, but I must tell you for answer, that you are to expect no more from me, having no other liberty, but this only which I take to assure you of it. I speak not this because I reject the Honour you are pleased to doe mee, but because being extreamly sensible as I am, the Quality of Daughter affords me no more power, to publish the stile.

*Sir,**of**Your most humble servant.**Letters*



*Letters upon the absence of ones
Mistresse.*

M A D A M,

HAving given you such absolute proofs
of Love, as I have done, I hope you
will make no doubt of the griefe
which your Absence causeth in mee:
You can scarce beleieve the one, without giving
credit to the other; and this is the thing
which gives me some kind of Comfort in my
Affliction. If I durst presume to supplicate
for your Returne, I would doe it with as much
earnestnesse, as a Sick man would implore
the presence of his Physitian; since I can as-
sure you, yours is as necessary for my repose,
having vowed to live and die

Madam,

*Your most humble and most obe-
dient servant, M.*

Q

Another.

*Another.**M A D A M,*

IF you knew, how sensible I were of your Absence, you would scarce be able to defend your selfe against the attempts of Pittie, how cruell soever you were by Nature. I suffer a Torment whose report only would force my Enemies to compassion, and yet can hardly beleeve that you regard it, being farre from imagining you are touched by it, in the least respect. But since you were borne into the World for no other end, than to be admired, and I to endure all manner of miserie, I must expect no Remedy but from Patience, and the Consideration of the Quality which I beare

Madam,

of

Your most humble and most obedient servant, M.

*Another to the same Purpose.**M A D A M,*

I Have led so sorrowfull a Life, since the Day of your Departure, that if I should recount it to the most insensible soules of the

the World, 'tis credible they would be moved to Compassion. Yet I doe not desire to stirre up that Passion in you, sufficing my selfe that you take notice of it, to the End that you make no doubt of my Love, and lesse of my Constancy. I must tell you then, that having lost both my appetite and repose, I passe over whole daies without eating, and whole Nights without sleep. I may seeke Contentment to a faire Purpose in the Conversation of my Friends, but I can find it only in Solitude, where my thoughts as ingenious as your selfe to increase my Affliction, represent nothing to mee but your Cruelty. Judge now if I be not one of the most wretched Lovers in the World. Yet my Consolation is in this, that I suffer all these Afflictions for the most worthy Subject living, and for whom I would loose a Thousand Lives, as being

Madam,

*Your most humble servant, and most
faithfull Lover.*

Another

M A D A M,

IF my Life be considerable to you, returne very quickly, that I may be cured of a mortall sicknesse, which has surprized

zed me by reason of your Absence. You ought to bee carefull in conserving mee, in the Passion which I have to your Service, knowing there be few in the World can give so good a Testimony of your worth, to which long agoe I dedicated my selfe

Madam,

A

Most humble and obedient servant.



Answers to the Precedent Letters.

S I R,



Oves diseases are so easie to cure, that I never spend my Charity upon such persons. If you be surprized with that kind of Malady, my Absence (whereof you complaine) will soone afford you a Remedy: but if that should not prove as I expect, then (to your owne advantage) the truth of your Affection wil appear by the continuance of your Constancy, which shall render me, as far as Liberty permits

Sir,

Your most humble servant.

Another

Another Answer.

S I R,

You know I am not accustomed to credit, the Complaints of Lovers, because they dye so often in word and Appearance, that the report of their Afflictions does now passe for a Fable. This I give you assurance of, and likewise that I am,

Sir,

Your most humble servant.

Another Answer.

S I R,

I Beleeve you suffer lesse paine, than you have taken to describe, that which you say my Absence produceth in you. My beauty I am sure, cannot cause either affliction or sorrow in any Man. So that if you continue your Complaints, I shall bee forced to begin my Reproaches; Cease then your discourse of Sorrows, and Griefs, and Sighes, and Lamentations, 'tis a Language that Mo-

Q 3

lests

lests mee extreamly, and which makes mee
speak thus freely to you, in Quality

Sir,

of

Your most humble servant.



*Other more obliging Answers to the
Precedent Letters.*

S I R,



Am sensible of the affliction, which
my absence causeth in you, but as
it is unavoidable in the Condition
I am in, you must of necessity re-
solve to be patient, since it is the only Remedy
of your Ill. Doe not undertake a Jonrney to
see me, but expect some occasion or other,
which will soone offer it selfe. Comfort your
thoughts with this hope, and the rather be-
cause I will partake in the Sweetnesse of it.
What need you feare? know you not, that if
you love me extreamly, I will revenge my self
with the same weapon? and if you be constant
I wil loose my life rather than my Resolution
to dye

Sir,

*Your most humble and most faithfull
servant.*

Another

Another Answer.

S I R,

IF I had the power to comfort you with my Presence, you should soone see mee where my Letter is now. But being under the Subjection of a Father and Mother, who give mee not so much as the Liberty to write to you, all that I can doe is to steale it, to comfort you with the Hopes of my Returne. Beleeve mee Sir, I wish for it with Passion, since I am to that Point

Sir,

Your most humble servant.



Letters protesting Love and Fidelity.

M A D A M,

IAm constrain'd to tell you, that of all the Persons in the World you are the only whom I affect most entirely; These are no Discourses of Complement, my Soule expressing all her thoughts with the same Innocence that my Mind conceived them, having no other object but your desert only. If you make doubt of this truth, serve

serve your selfe of that absolute power which you have acquired over mee, to oblige my Endeavours to all manner of proofes. My Honour, and Life, are both at your dispose; I will hazard the one and other, when you please, either for your Service, or Contentment; since it interesteth my Quiet, that I be eternally

Madam,

*Your most humble and most obedient,
and most faithfull servant.*

Another.

M A D A M,

THough I should say that you are the only object of my Respect, and Affection, I should represent but one part of the Esteeme which I make of your desert: for I find you reigning so absolutely in my Soule, that I have no liberty left mee, but only to publish in all places where I come, that I am

Madam,

*Your most humble, most obedient
and most faithfull servant, and
subject, M.*

Answers



Answers to the Precedent Letters.

S I R,

THe Lovers of this Age, are so accustomed to divulge their Constancy and Affection in all places, that they are as far from perswading the beleefe of it to others, as they are from the true feeling themselves. What paines you take in seeking to give me assurance that you love me! I am so farre from giving credit to the least syllable of those discourses made to my Advantage, that it is a great trouble to mee to heare them, being fully satisfied if you love mee in that height that I honour you, since I am

Sir,

Your most humble servant.

Another Answer.

S I R,

You are too eloquent to be Amorus; a Passion so extream as that which you feigne in my behalfe, could never bee
R . able

able to expresse it self, but in feeble tearmes. Which forces me to a beleife that you imployed more time in Composing that pretty Letter, than ever you did in the Sufferings of Love. But howsoever, your deceit is not so unpleasing to me that I cease to be obliged to your care in turning it to my Advantage, which I shall alwayes receive, when you are pleased to reckon me in the Number

Sir,

of

Your most humble servants.



Letters Complaining of a Neglect.

M A D A M,



Am Constrained to say that I am most unfortunate, since three years service could never obtaine of you to grant they were pleasing or agreeable. Truly, though that recompence (as proceeding from you) be of an infinite value; yet me thinks the effects of so many dutifull regards, might have merited some small acknowledgment of your Civility. But since I have already learned my lesson of Love, I
am

Part 2. *in Fashion.*

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am sufficiently instructed in suffering : feeding my thoughts with the Comfort of this Consideration, that 'tis You are my Mistresse, and I

Madam,

Your most humble and most obedient servant.

Another upon the Same.

M A D A M,

I Should never have conceived, that since you are publickly honoured by all the World, and perfectly by mee, you would have recompenced my Respects with Contempt, and my Love with Hatred. 'Tis true, the Slavery wherein I am tied, forbids me to demand a reason for what you doe. Yet my Prison allowes me this Liberty, to tell you that you are too rigorous to be so beautifull: and that except you change this severe Humour, wherewith you tyrannize over mee, you will run the hazard to lose

Madam,

*The most humble, and most obedient
of all your servants.*

R 2

Answers

*Answers to the Precedent Letters.**S I R,*

Wonder you should Complaine of my Neglect, having alwayes had Esteeme for your Desert. 'Tis true, my austere Humour has oftentimes given you subject to greive ; but, I beseech you think I was never guilty, but in appearance only, of that which you accuse me, being alwayes inclined to nourish a good opinion of your Merit, in Quality

Sir,

of

*Your most humble servant.**Another Answer.**S I R,*

You have no pretence to divulge mee the most cruell and disdainfull Woman alive : for when you maintaine such

such discourses, those that know my disposition, will easily know you are in Anger; otherwise neither could they excuse your humour, nor I your misbeleife. If my actions had merited the prooffe of your Study, you would have had a better opinion of my inclination, since the first time that I have had the Honour to practise you; but such is my misfortune, that all my Endeavours are not able to nourish in you a good Conceit

Sir,

of

Your most humble servant.



Letters Complaining of Inconstancy.

M A D A M,



Never thought that after so many protestations of Fidelity, you would have lost even the remembrance of having made them. Hereafter, Frailty shal not be esteem'd an adjunct of Humanity, since in
R 3
yours

yours you are most inhumane, having thereby exposed to the utmost perill one of your most faithfull Admirers. But live contented in your new Conquest, and know that of all the Servants whom your Ficklenesse shall acquire you, you will never find any that will equall my Affection, or be to that point that I have been

Madam,

Your most humble, and most obedient servant.

Another.

M A D A M,

I Must let you know that your Inconstancy has provoked in mee more Pitty, then it has procured me ill, being willing to lose the Possession of that to day, which I could not maintaine till to morrow. I say Pitty, because I have some respect to your Honour, which is more interess'd in that Action than my Contentment. I pray God this Lightnesse may give you as much Satisfaction, as it caused you blame, in the Eye
of

of the World. I shall alwayes be glad of any good Fortune that shall happen you, as making profession to be still

Madam,

Your most humble, and most obedient servant.



Answers to these kind of Letters.

S I R,

I Shall receive Praise rather than Reproach, from all that know the Reason of my Change; for I was obliged to it in so many respects, that the least of them, will sufficiently accuse you, for having condemned mee. I will give you an account of this Action when you please, and when you are truly informed how things passed, I will have no other Judge but your self, what interest, soever you pretend to have in the Suit. 'Tis from the Part

Sir,

of

Your most humble servant.

Another.

*Another.**S I R,*

IF you knew with what violence I was constrain'd to this Mutation, I make no doubt but you would esteeme me far more worthy Praise, than Reproach. Imagine the power of a Tyrannicall Father towards his Daughter under his obedience : Shee may weep her fill, he bathes himselfe with joy in her teares; her Sorrowes, and Lamentations doe but increase his fury. This is the case I am in at this present. I leave to your selfe to Consider what I am able to doe against so strong an Enemy. The only consideration which remains to mee, is, that if I have lost the Quality of your Mistresse, yet I will conserve everlastingly

Sir,

That of

*Your most humble servant.**A*



*A Letter to demand the Picture of
ones Mistresse.*

M A D A M,

I Hope you will grant mee this humble intreaty, which is, to give me your Picture, knowing I value the Originall more than all other things in the World; That beautifull Substance, whose Features, and Graces you animate with so much sweetnesse, appeared in my sight so adorable, that I long extreamly after the Shadow. You may give Comfort to this impatience of mine when you please, by granting mee the expectation of that favour: Which I will place in the Rank of the greatest Felicities which ever can happen me, since it gives mee the noblest meanes of Testifying the Resentment which I have, in Quality

Madam,

of

*Your most obedient ser-
vant.*

S

An

*An Answer to this Letter.*

S I R,



Our intreaty is so obliging, that I am forced to grant it, being glad you should have often before your Eyes the Image of her that honours you extreamly. You will doe mee a favour to beleeve it, and likewise that I am

Sir,

Your most humble servant.*A Letter to demand a Mistres her Haire.*

M A D A M,

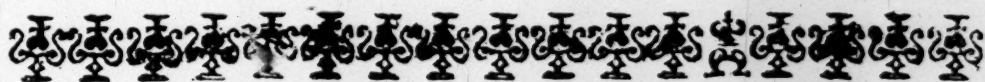


Hope you will not wonder, if having enjoyed so sweet a Servitude, I seek after new chaines, by demanding a Bracelet of your Haire. To tell you how highly I shall esteem this favour, I must have recourse either to your Merit, or my owne Love for expression, and being you have perfect knowledge of them both, I leave the Consideration to your selfe, together with that

that of the Passion which I have to your Service, as being more than Ever

Madam,

Your most humble and most obedient servant..



A Favourable Answer to this Letter.

SIR,

MY Our Merit is of so powerfull a perswasion that I am forced to grant you your request: I will not oblige you to silence, knowing that your Discretion has already prevented my Desires. 'Tis sufficient to put you in mind, that as these favours are not Vulgar, so they require a secrecy of Faith in the Receivers. I hope you will keep it Inviolably, while you Remember that I am

Sir,

Your most humble servant.

FINIS.